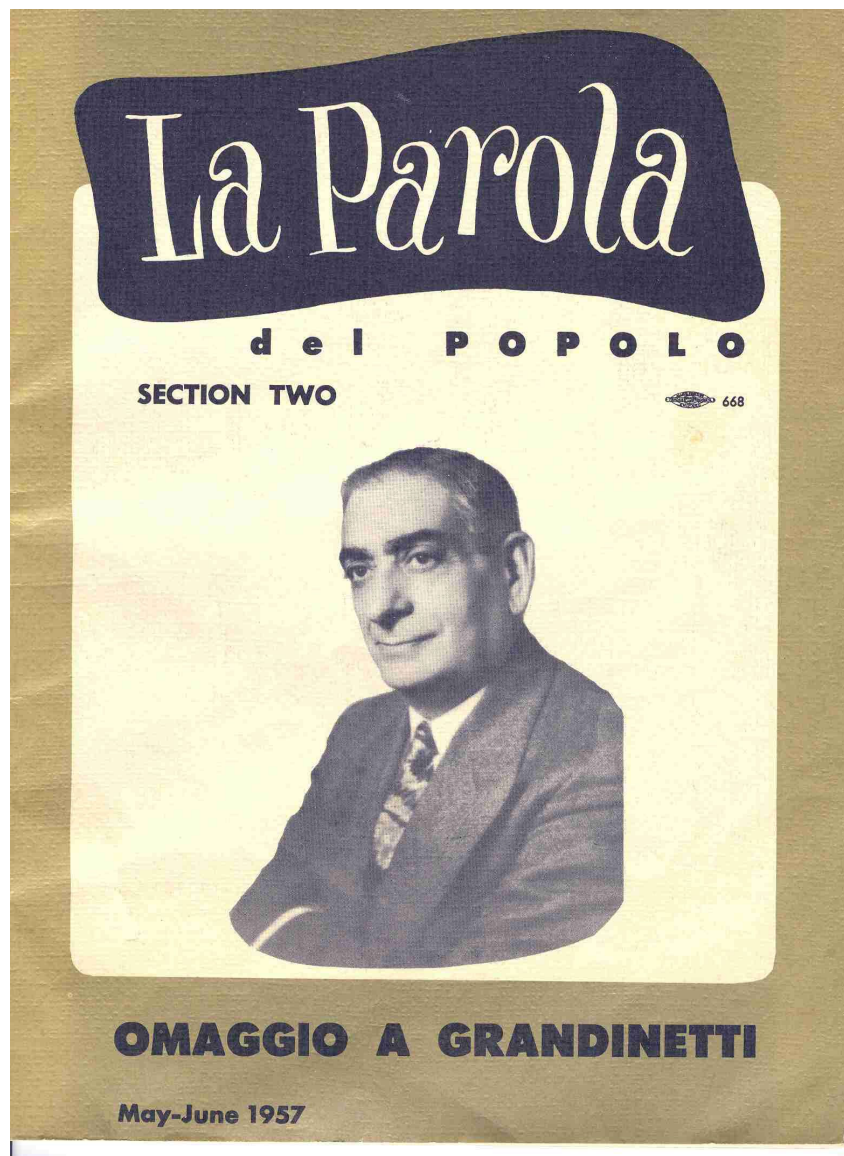


La Parola del Popolo

Special Issue

Honoring Emilio Grandinetti

On his 50th Anniversary in the United States



Introduction to this document

Emilio Grandinetti arrived in America from Calabria in 1906 and became involved in labor movement activities primarily under the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) banner. He retired from the ACWA as a General Organizer in 1948. In May of 1957, the ACWA hosted a testimonial dinner at the Chateau Royale in Chicago Illinois to celebrate his fifty years in America. The following pages are scanned images from the periodical *La Parola del Popolo* (The Voice of the People – an Italian-language publication aimed at working-class Italian immigrants, the labor union movement, and the Italian style of socialism) and this issue was a tribute to him.

In addition to the *La Parola* scanned images, this document also contains translations from Italian to English where appropriate. The original *La Parola* publication from which these images were obtained remains in the possession of the Grandinetti family, but the Internet Archive also has a digital version of the May-June 1957 edition – without English translations – available at this link: https://archive.org/details/parola-del-popolo_may-june-1957_section-two/mode/2up

Author's note: *Any inaccuracies in this document are my own. Also, future revisions may incorporate additional information, photographs, or documents as they are discovered. This document is also one part of a planned collection related to Emilio's labor activities, as well as a larger project aiming to preserve the memories of the two generations of Grandinettis that preceded mine.*

Translation note: *All Italian-to-English translations were prepared with ChatGPT, 2026. It is a faithful but non-literal translation that renders the meaning in natural English while preserving the original tone and character.*

Historical note: *Ellis Island records confirm Emilio Grandinetti arriving in America July 6, 1906.*

Research note: *Emilio Grandinetti also appears as Committee Chairman/author/contributor in many issues of *La Parola del Popolo* available through the Internet Archive. See https://archive.org/details/pub_parola-del-popolo?sort=-date*

TESTIMONIAL DINNER

H O N O R I N G

Emilio Grandinetti

ON HIS
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
IN THE UNITED STATES

Sunday, May 5th, 1957

A T

Chateau Royale

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

M A I N S P E A K E R S :

Frank Rosenblum

General Secretary-Treasurer
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

August Bellanca

Vice-President,
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

C H A I R M A N :

A. D. Marimpietri

Vice-President, Amalgamated Trust and Savings Bank
Chicago



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We salute . . .

Emilio Grandinetti

and

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS TO

LA PAROLA DEL POPOLO

NEW YORK JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. of A.

LOUIS HOLLANDER

VINCENT LA CAPRIA

General Managers

ABRAHAM MILLER

Secretary-Treasurer

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UN SALUTO AI NOSTRI INVITATI D'ONORE

IL COMITATO promotore del Testimonial Dinner a Emilio Grandinetti saluta tutti gli invitati d'onore che hanno voluto, con la loro presenza esprimere ad Emilio Grandinetti la loro simpatia e gratitudine per quello che egli ha fatto durante i cinquanta anni di permanenza in America. E' con doveroso orgoglio che da parte nostra additiamo l'uomo adamantino, e retto davanti ad ogni sopruso perpetrato ai danni della classe lavoratrice.

Le poche pagine che seguono, riferiscono, nel pensiero degli amici e dei compagni di lavoro di Emilio Grandinetti, gli atti concreti e la considerazione in cui egli è tenuto non solamente negli Stati Uniti, ma anche in Italia dove conta ammiratori fra i leaders del lavoro democratico e, naturalmente fra i vecchi suoi amici.

Non è per puro caso che i gruppi democratici e socialisti di Chicago hanno indetto questo simposio. Il fatto sta che diversi altri nostri leaders hanno già avuto un doveroso riconoscimento da parte della comunità italiana di Chicago. La Sezione Socialista Italiana, il Circolo Giacomo Matteotti del Workmen's Circle, all'unisono con la redazione della "Parola del Popolo" e dei gruppi della Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (Chicago Joint Board e Locale Italiana 270 in prima fila) non potevano lasciar passare l'occasione del 50.o anniversario al servizio del Lavoro Organizzato di Emilio Grandinetti senza onorarlo e manifestargli la loro gratitudine per tutte le sue attività a pro dei lavoratori italiani in America.

Perché Grandinetti non ha limitato le sue attività solamente in Chicago, anche Cincinnati, Rochester, New York e molte altre località hanno avuto l'onore di vederlo nei comizi, nelle assemblee, nelle linee di picchetto, negli scioperi e in ogni altra manifestazione di carattere operaio—sempre calmo, bravo, coraggioso e affascinante.

Nuovamente diamo il benvenuto ai nostri invitati.

We again bid our guests a most gracious welcome to an enjoyable and beneficial afternoon which will live long in our memories.

E. Clemente

Good afternoon dear friends, you are welcome,
Relax for a while and feel at home,
About our honored guest you shall hear
Noble, honest, intrepid, sincere.
During the strike of Nineteen Hundred and Ten
I met Emilio, he led the Italians then
Notable orator he has persuaded
Ever since, so many to join the Amalgamated.
To pay tribute to a man, today we propose,
True to his principle of lofty purpose
Italian by birth, American by choice.

A. D. Marimpietri

COMMITTEE

A. D. MARIMPIETRI
Chairman
L. CHIOSTRA
Vice Chairman
A. CAMBONI
Treasurer
E. CLEMENTE
Secretary
A. BIONDI
C. STEFANI
Trustees

HONORARY COMMITTEE

HON. CHARLES P. TAFT
Mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio
HON. GEORGE L. QUILICI
Judge Municipal Court, Chicago
JACOB S. POTOFKY
General President, ACWA
FRANK ROSENBLUM
General Sec'y-Treas., ACWA
AUGUSTO BELLANCA
Vice-President, ACWA
REUBEN BLOCK
Manager Local 119, ACWA
Allentown, Pa.
RICHARD BRAZIER
Vice-President, ACWA
SOL BRANDZEL
Sec'y-Treas., Chicago Joint Board
ACWA
ULISSE DeDOMINICIS
Manager, Baltimore Joint Board,
ACWA
JACK KROLL
Manager, Cincinnati Joint Board,
ACWA
VINCENT LaCAPRIA
Co-Manager, New York Joint
Board, ACWA
NICK J. MARZELLA
Manager, St. Louis Joint Board
ACWA
G. D. PROCOPIO
President, Local 563, Shoe
Service Union, Brooklyn, N.Y.
MARCO MECCIA
Ass't Manager, Cincinnati Joint
Board, ACWA
JOSEPH SALERNO
Regional Director, ACWA,
Boston, Mass.
SAMUEL SMITH
Manager Chicago Joint Board,
ACWA
CHARLES WEINSTEIN
Manager Philadelphia Joint Board
ACWA

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Translation of Un Saluto Ai Nostri Inviati D'onore appears on the next page

A Salute to Our Guests of Honor

The committee sponsoring the testimonial dinner for Emilio Grandinetti extends its greetings to all the guests of honor who, by their presence, have wished to express to Emilio Grandinetti their affection and gratitude for all that he has done during his fifty years of residence in America.

It is with a justifiable sense of pride that we, for our part, pay tribute to the steadfast and upright man who has always stood against every oppressive assault upon the working class.

The few pages that follow present, in the thoughts of Emilio Grandinetti's friends and fellow workers, the concrete deeds and accomplishments for which he has distinguished himself not only in the United States, but also in Italy, where he counts among his admirers leaders of the democratic labor movement and, naturally, many of his old friends.

It is no coincidence that the democratic and socialist groups of Chicago have joined together for this tribute. The fact that several of our other leaders have already received well-deserved recognition from Chicago's Italian community—the Italian Socialist Section, the Giacomo Matteotti Circle of the Workmen's Circle, together with the editors of *La Parola del Popolo* and the groups of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (the Chicago Joint Board and Local 270 in particular)—made it impossible to let the occasion of Emilio Grandinetti's 50th anniversary of service to Organized Labor pass without honoring him and expressing their gratitude for all his activities on behalf of Italian workers in America.

Because Grandinetti has not limited his activities to Chicago, but has also been active in Cincinnati, Rochester, New York, and many other places, they have had the honor of seeing him at rallies, meetings, picket lines, strikes, and every other kind of labor demonstration—always calm, brave, courageous, and inspiring.

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to our guests.

We again bid our guests a most gracious welcome to an enjoyable and beneficial afternoon which will live long in our memories.

E. Clemente

Page S-3 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR "BIRTHDAY"

Emilio Grandinetti

CARRY ON . . . UNTIL VICTORY IS ACHIEVED!

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

A. C. W. of A.

BOSTON, MASS.

JOSEPH SALERNO

DIRECTOR

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A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS

Sidney Hillman, the late President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, on occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Cincinnati Joint Board, wrote the following article:

IT GIVES me great joy to greet the Amalgamated membership in Cincinnati on the occasion of this Silver Anniversary Jubilee. The twenty-five years that have elapsed since the union in Cincinnati came into being have been more than a quarter of a century. A whole epoch in human history has passed by in these relatively few years. The people and the nation of the United States have lived a century in terms of the great changes that have taken place in American life. The leaders and the members of the Amalgamated in Cincinnati, I do not hesitate to say, have registered no less significant an evolution in this period. They have reason to be proud of their achievements.

Well do I remember those years way back in the early days before the founding of the Amalgamated and during its formative period. Face after face comes up in my memory as I think of the loyal soldiers who laid the foundation of our power in Cincinnati. By their efforts, beginning with 1914, they made it possible now to have a 100 per cent union in the industry and 100 per cent protection for the people who work in it. A great many names of old-timers, to whom I would wish to refer here, come up in memory, as I pen these lines, and beyond words is the admiration I have for what they have done. The supreme sacrifice made by Jacob Reichert stands out as an ineradicable symbol of what Amalgamated loyalty will produce when put to a test.

It is upon the foundation of the work of the pioneers of the men and the women in the ranks and in the lead of the organization that the present strength of the union has been built. What the rank and file with their devotion, sacrifice and steadfastness have achieved is, to a tremendous degree, due to the untiring activity and to the leadership of the caliber of men such as Frank Rosenblum, Jack Kroll and Emilio Grandinetti.

I greet you all on this great occasion and I bring to you the felicitation of the entire international organization. Here's the hope that the future may prove to hold in its wake a full measure of that to which the past work justly entitles the members of your excellent organization.

Sidney Hillman

GREETING:

Italian - American Labor Council

218 WEST 40th STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LUIGI ANTONINI

PRESIDENT

GREETING:

ITALIAN DRESSMAKERS UNION
Local 89, I. L. G. W. U.

218-232 WEST 40th STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LUIGI ANTONINI

GENERAL SECRETARY

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I AM more than happy to extend my warm greetings and appreciation to Emilio Grandinetti!

His friendly spirit and his effective leadership has been of the greatest value, not only to his own union, but to the communities where he has worked.

Charles P. Taft
Mayor of Cincinnati

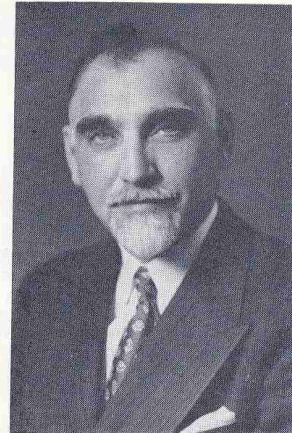
I JOIN ALL his friends and co-workers in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Emilio Grandinetti's arrival in this country.

For virtually all those years, he was intimately associated with the struggles and achievements of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Emilio Grandinetti is one of the Grand Old Men of our movement. His courage, his vision, his capacity for sacrifice on behalf of others helped make possible a better life and a better world for thousands of men and women who came to America seeking economic and political liberty.

His warmth and affection for his fellowmen and his leadership qualities all contribute to the position of recognition and esteem he held and still holds among us. Those of us who fought by his side in the early days of our organization will never forget him.

I wish, from the bottom of my heart, continued years of usefulness and health for this great fighter and human being.

Jacob S. Potofsky
General President



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WE SALUTE EMILIO GRANDINETTI

A GREAT AMERICAN . . .

A GREAT TRADE UNIONIST AND A

TRUE FRIEND TO ALL

ST. LOUIS JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. A.

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

in honoring Emilio Grandinetti who has helped thousands of workers in the Labor Movement. May he continue in good health to enable him to carry on for many years to home.

CLEVELAND JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. A.

BERYL PEPPERCORN, Manager

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

SOUTH JERSEY JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. A.

Reuben Block, Manager

Joseph Oliva, Assistant Manager

Sol Friss, Secretary-Treasurer

Marino Bernardini - John Guida

Carl Giordano

Business Agents

COI MIGLIORI AUGURI DI LUNGA

E FATTIVA VITA

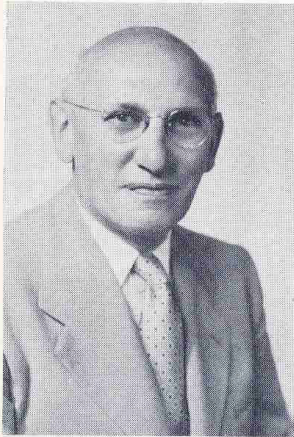
SARTI ITALIANI LOCALE 63

A. C. W. A.

31 WEST 15th STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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I AM DELIGHTED to add my tribute to that grand old man Emilio Grandinetti whose 50 years of service to the American labor movement is being celebrated.

It was my great privilege to work side by side with him as a staff member of the Western organization, particularly in Chicago and Cincinnati since the early days of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers to whose existence and strength Grandinetti made such a splendid contribution.

He was an inspiration to all who knew him, who worked and fought by his side. To this day, he is a shining example to the young men and women who have followed in his footsteps.

Emilio Grandinetti has lived a life of complete dedication to the cause of labor. He lived up to his vision of the dignity of men and security for those who toil, and their families.

My best wishes to Emilio Grandinetti for many more years of useful service to mankind.

Frank Rosenblum
General Secretary-Treasurer
ACWA

AMERICA for generations has been the beneficiary of the contributions that immigrants have made to the development of its industrial life and to the enrichment of its cultural life.

Emilio Grandinetti is one of those who has made a full contribution to his adopted country. His inspiring eloquence and his limitless energy devoted to the struggle of all sweated workers have been of tremendous help in assisting them to a little more security, a little more comfort in attaining a fuller life.

Thousands of men and women in many cities hold him in the highest esteem and affection, and wish him and his splendid family many more years of health and happiness so that he may continue to contribute to the well being of the men and women who labor.

Jack Kroll
Vice President ACWA
Mgr. Cincinnati Joint Board



WITH OUR BEST WISHES TO

Emilio Grandinetti

FOR MANY MORE YEARS OF USEFUL SERVICE TO MANKIND

**Pittsburgh District Joint Board
A. C. W. of A.**

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN SOBCZAK, Manager

TO

Emilio Grandinetti

MAN OF INTEGRITY AND HONEST SOLDIER OF THE
LABOR MOVEMENT

**Boston Joint Board
A. C. W. of A.**

BOSTON, MASS.

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LET ME JOIN COUNTLESS other admirers of our venerable comrade-in-arms, Emilio Grandinetti, and celebrate his 50 years in the American labor movement. His life has been an example not only to his colleagues, but to the young men and women who have come after him.

I have known Brother Grandinetti since the historical general strike in 1915, when he helped establish the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in Chicago. His courage, his example, his leadership inspired others in our great common cause. If American workers, especially those of immigrant origin, have achieved decent working and living standards, as well as human dignity as workers and citizens, it is the work of men like Grandinetti which they have contributed in one short life-span.

It is not my custom to praise a friend and comrade but his personality, his modesty, his great gifts have spoken for half a century to men and women who sought inspiration and courage in their daily lives.

Across half a continent, I send your Guest of Honor the affectionate greetings of a comrade who shared with him both the joy and tears of the great struggle over the years.

I wish Emilio Grandinetti, that soldier of the labor movement, many, many more years of health and happiness.

August Bellanca
Vice President, ACWA

EMILIO GRANDINETTI had three great fortunes outside of the one of being born a male. One, he was born in Calabria. Two, he came to the United States. Three, he joined the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America when Sidney Hillman was its consecrated leader and foremost spiritual force in the labor movement. As a Calabrian, he was endowed with loyalty, love of mankind, pride, dignity and endurance. As an American, he never lost faith in himself and strove steadfastly for ever new achievements. As a servant of labor, he put principle, devotion and solidarity beyond and above material gains and success.

A university man, an engineer, an architect and a socialist steeped in the European culture and American tradition, he chose to go along the hard path of industrial unionism in a period of greed and persecution, and with pioneers Frank Rosenblum and Augusto Bellanca, he became one of its mentors and guides.

He never lost a fight because he never ran away from one. He never made an implacable enemy because he was always forgiving and generous to the vanquished.

I often said that my comrades are chosen by the movement but my friends are selected by me — but by a rare and special dispensation of fate, Emilio was both my comrade and my friend and thus became my brother.

I honor, respect and hail with you this great, grizzled warrior.

Arturo Giovannitti

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GREETINGS

FROM

LOCAL 126

A. C. W. A

ELIZABETH, N. J.



Vincent Messina, Manager
Connie Petio, Business Agent
Ann Van Someran, President
Ann Roscoe, Secretary
Ann Rotola, Treasurer

GREETINGS

MINNESOTA JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. A

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

SANDER GENIS, Manager

WE SALUTE EMILIO GRANDINETTI
FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEVOTION AND
INTEGRITY TO THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

TORONTO JOINT BOARD

A. C. W. A.

SOL SPIVAK, Mgr.

GREETINGS FROM THE

LOS ANGELES CLOAK JOINT BOARD

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT
WORKERS' UNION

Isidor Stenzor, Manager
Nicholas Barbarino, Chairman
Albert D. Axelrod, Vice Chairman
Morris Solomon, Secretary

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FIFTY YEARS OF ACTIVITY

By EMILIO GRANDINETTI

IT IS NOT easy to summarize in a few lines a half century of activity in one of the most complex and most confused of fields. It is especially difficult when this activity is repeated in dozens of cities, among unknown peoples, in new surroundings and in different climates. The problem then becomes a complicated one and its analysis still more difficult. The problem became a somewhat more trying one when one moved from Chicago into a small town like Coal City where even a cup of coffee or a small room for lodging for the night was unavailable. Add to these many problems, that of finances. After all, the organization's financial plight in its early years was really desperate.

It is the duty of you, young newcomers to know all this, to know and understand the obstacles overcome on our road to the goal that led to better conditions for the workingman in America. One has to remember that we obtained these gains in battles that were fought without the help of the beneficial laws that were enacted during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Yes, it is your duty to know our story and its unfolding, to know about the apathy of the public, the reactionary laws and how the

police sold us out to employers time and again. Yes, and you should know that justice then was a slave of the Manufacturers Association.

When we think of the progress we have made, we must not forget the blood we have shed, the jails we have filled, and more important, we must not forget our comrades that have fallen by the wayside. Within our small circle, we also can list our dead, our wounded, and many injustices suffered. Chicago has had its martyrs: Charles Lazinskas, Frank Nagreskis and Samuel Kapper. The first two were victims of the general strike of 1910, while the last succumbed in 1915. Who can count our jailed brothers?

I still have before me, clearly as though it was yesterday, the picture of mounted policemen plunging over the sidewalks and trampling peaceful workers whose only crime was that of trying to protect their jobs in factories. In factories, where they had known only sweat and abuse. They were arrested like common criminals and herded by the hundreds into stinking cells where they were held incommunicado for days. Chicago police were not the only ones to practise this violence and abuse on our brothers. It was also the privilege of the St. Louis law enforcers. How

well I remember the St. Louis police monsters. In all my years of organizing, I don't recall any more violent, inhuman treatment of a workingman as practised by the St. Louis gendarmes during one of the city's bloodiest strikes. Their abuse



Picture taken in Messina, Italy, about 1900, and shows our Grandinetii with a copy of l' "Avanti!". At his side, Dr. Scuderi, secretary of the Socialist Party of Messina, and Avv. Francesco Fazio, a fervent leader of the Mazzini republican party in Calabria.

of the striking workers was such a revolting spectacle that even one of the St. Louis newspaper denounced the behaviour of the police.

Its protest were in vain. The monsters continued daily to arrest the strikers and detain them in police stations during the day to prevent any picketing at the factories. The author remembers one day when he and two other organizers, L. Oliver and J. Blumber, were arrested in front of their hotel and detained in jail throughout the night because the police captain wanted to question them. At seven in the morning, they were

EMILIO GRANDINETTI deserves more than just a Testimonial Dinner in Chicago.

His friends, who are numbered by the thousands throughout this vast country, are willing and eager to perpetuate his name not only in Chicago, but in every great city.

EMILIO GRANDINETTI.

Labor leader with vision, with character, with honesty and with courage remains as always a symbol of intellectual integrity to all those who aspire to be a part of a greater labor movement and to a better world dedicated to peace.

Philip DeLuca
National Representative
ACWA

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released because the captain was still too busy to question them. These police procedures of annoyance were repeated many times.

To recall our past means to relive the same experiences which have been decisive for the labor movement in general; because what was happening to us was happening throughout all industries where the workers were attempting to organize. Obscure are the pages which record the events that changed the economic structure of this great Republic.

We are proud, even at the cost of much sacrifice, to have made our contribution in spreading the idea of solidarity and improving the economic lot of the working class. Yes, it was this goal of solidarity that urged us on from city to city to give our time and efforts in organizing our countrymen.

We found them in Rochester, ready, eager to do battle and determined to achieve a victory. We found them in Cleveland, a city second to none when it came to recruiting union workers. We found them in Cincinnati where a collective bargaining goal entailed more battles than any other American city. In St. Louis, they showed sacrifice and discipline as they did battle with one of the most powerful American institutions. Powerful because it was backed by all the city, state and law enforcing agencies and supported by the great financial trusts.

In Duluth, despite the 30 degree below zero, our immigrants took their place in the picket lines full of hope and proud to participate in the struggle. What can I say about our countrymen in Wisconsin?

Even Chicago, the solid bastion of the all powerful Manufacturers Association fell before the determined onslaughts of the sons of old Europe.

You, new members; you, who have not participated in our battles, should appreciate the cost of unionism, the energy spent and the faith that animated its advocates in conducting the battle that



resulted in triumph for human solidarity.

Having won their right to belong in industry, having overcome their inferiority feeling, having abolished all humiliations and vexations of which they were once victims, our immigrants in the clothing industry have established a new order and have taught others that the future is in the hands of the working people.

We are proud to have contributed to the great change, we are proud to have given our intelligence, our faith, our courage, and above all, our honesty. Yes, our honesty which was able to resist all temptations.

With dignity and conscience, Italians have contributed to the success of the labor movement. There were many workers journals printed in the United States before 1910. Outstanding intellectuals and personalities had crossed the ocean to lend their support and comfort to fellow countrymen, now abandoned to themselves in the search of a decent living which they had failed to find in their homeland.

Thus were born schools, social clubs and libraries to help educate the masses swarming the roads to unknown destiny. Later came the propagandists to consolidate these forces into the first workers groups like the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor. The United Garment Workers first saw the light in 1891, a somewhat anemic baby. The Journeymen Tailors, meanwhile, was coming into being at the same time. Many Italians joined the ranks of this group which was composed of costume tailors.

The Italian performed his duty and contributed his share to all causes and groups. Any student of the history of our organization will discover for himself the great abilities shown by Italians in preparing the ground for the great events. They cooperated with men of different races to realize the new programs suitable for the changing times.

Only future historians will be able to judge whether the Italians



Five organizers in Cincinnati in 1926. Left to right: Emilio Grandinetti, B. Peppercorn J. Kroll, L. Oliver and L. Schultz.

BOLLETTINO DELLO SCIOPERO DEI SARTI

Publicato a cura del Comitato Italiano della U. G. W. of America - Local No. 219

REDAZIONE 874 Blue Island Ave.

- No. 2 -

Chicago 15 Novembre 1910

LA LOTTA

continua senza scoraggiamenti e senza tentennamenti. Una stessa idea, una stessa speranza anima tutti. I peggiorissimi, quelli cui nessuno ideale ha mai pulsato o rischiato la mente o il cuore vorrebbero cedere: ma contro questi miserabili, quanti infinitamente trascurabili, stanno di fronte a visiera alzata, coscienti, i ribelli a qualunque codardo tentativo di tradimento.

Nessun sciopero al mondo ha dato prova di resistenza come questo, quando si pensa che gli scioperanti si sono uniti dopo avere abbandonato la fattoria, quando hanno dichiarato lo sciopero senza un soldo in cassa, quando nessuno poteva misurare le conseguenze avvenire.

Ed e' tanto piu' meraviglioso in quanto che, senza direttori, vogliono che i loro diritti vengano completamente affermati.

Da principio tutti o quasi tutti erano se non contrari, almeno indifferenti al movimento, ma ora no: son tutti con noi; dal professore allo studente, dall'aristocratica ed imbellettata dama della cospirazione alla società, alla umile produttrice, dal grande negoziante al piccolo venditore ambulante. Mentre prima i giornali pagati per travasare i fatti erano contro, oggi invece dedicano intere colonne, non solo per stigmatizzare la brutale malvagità della canaglia poliziottesca, ma dicono a voce alta che con gli scioperanti sta la so-

lidiarietà di tutti e di tutte le classi sociali. Avvenimento finora sconosciuto: in tutti i movimenti del genere si sono avuti i favorevoli e i contrari, nel caso attuale, no.

Indice questo dei tempi nuovi? Non lo credo! Credo piuttosto che le condizioni economiche miserrime della classe in sciopero abbia fatto presa sul sentimentalismo del popolo.

Ed e' bella, sublime, questa gara gentile per venire in aiuto in tutti i modi e con tutti i mezzi ai cosiddetti perturbatori dell'ordine pubblico.

E mentre gli scioperanti dimostrano di essere forti e tenaci nella lotta, la roccia dei manfatturieri va sgretolandosi: fino ad oggi son 124 ditte che han firmato i contratti col Presidente dell'organizzazione: son 15 mila operai che son tornati al lavoro. E la capitolazione continua.

Ancora uno sforzo, un assalto e le ultime trincee degli avversari saranno demolite: e i superuomini di cio' che fu un giorno l'associazione dei manfatturieri noi vi pianto il vessillo del riscatto proletario!

In questa lotta titanica abbiamo anche potuto misurare la capacità morale di certi assistenti foreman... Questi yigiacchi han fatto di tutto per corrompere gli operai, le donne, ne han detto di tutti i colori, han cercato con mirabolanti promesse ingaggiare dei krumiri, ma non vi

sono riusciti. Contro questi miserabili, feccia umana, cui la promessa di una buona paga ha fatto perdere il sentimento della onestà, della rettitudine, noi insorgeremo spietando loro sul viso il marchio dell'infamia e della vergogna. A questi esseri nocivi alla società gridiamo: voi avete cercato gettare il disordine su i capi, voi siete ricorsi a tutti gli espedienti suggeriti dalla vostra anima fatta di fango, per ricondurre all'ovile le pecorelle, ma vi siete ingannati, la onestà d'intenti che anima noi tutti, vi ha fatto indietreggiare!...

Voi siete degli incoscienti, dei rettili schiososi, e la vostra bava e' ricaduta su voi stessi! A questi botoli rognosi, un calcio e via!

I manfatturieri han cercato affamarci mandando il lavoro altrove, ma anche questo loro tentativo e' fallito. Dovunque gli abiti sono stati mandati per essere confezionati, i lavoratori han detto: o questo lavoro torna indietro, o noi abbandoneremo la fattoria.

Non e' questo un indice sicuro che la classe lavoratrice tenda ad affermarsi, a segnare nel quadrante della vita, la sua ragione d'essere? Non e' questo un indice sicuro che i lavoratori di tutto il mondo si stringono, per affermare che la emancipazione dei lavoratori dev' essere opera dei lavoratori stessi? Avanti, oscuri fattori della civiltà, avvenire, avanti, con la fiaccola in pugno e con la scure!

E. GRANDINETTI

The second issue of a newspaper published by the U. G. W. during the strike of 1910 in Chicago. The front page carried an article by its Editor Emilio Grandinetti.

have received the proper appreciation for their contributions, whether they have received the acknowledgment which was their due, and whether their sacrifices were weighed and considered.

Today, we believe we gave all we could without being motivated by personal ambition and economic advantage, nor with the hope of taking over leadership for personal gains. We were not prompted by feelings of superiority and authority. Our greatest satisfaction has been to give our intelligence and our faith to facilitate the rise of the working class and thus to hasten the triumph of justice and Democracy.

Our activities have been aimed toward this goal, and toward its attainment, we have sacrificed

everything. Thus we can look back at the past with a certain satisfaction of having given our modest contribution toward the building up of a society based on equality and freedom of the people.

It is these memories of the past, of the battles fought, of the victories and defeats sustained that have cemented the solidarity of our organization. It is these memories

AL CARISSIMO compagno Grandinetti ed ai compagni che gli testimoniano il loro affetto, la loro riconoscenza per essere rimasto attraverso tutte le vicissitudini della vita fedele al nostro grande ideale di Uguaglianza e di Libertà, mando un fervido saluto di solidarietà e tantissimi auguri.

Sono, sempre con e per il Socialismo, Vostra compagna

Angelica Balabanoff

Roma, 10-IV-57

S-15

that bring a certain satisfaction to our life. I see once again the workers crowding the halls of Chicago's Stock Yards, filled with hopeful workers; the meeting places in Argo, and the gas workers of St. Louis, and the pastry workers, all fighting to improve their economic lot. Yes, I see them, these courageous workers, and as I see them reviewed once again before my eyes, I feel proud that I have given my life's service to their great battle.

Fifty years is a short time, but in the span of a lifetime, they represent great changes and progress which decide the destiny of man.

Sciolti al cinghiale di Mason Avenue

Voce gagliarda
di calabra schiatta,
adusa a silana tempesta
a scontri, ad immani cimenti,
Chicago Ti vide ventenne,
nude le braccia irsute,
invitto odiator di tiranni.

L'alto programma
di valide istanze,
per sarti da Te formulato
univa di Sam il sentire,
ed all'italo grido di speme
il vessillo sociale sventava
su spalti irrorati d'oblio.

Donde l'America,
ieri dei poveri diavoli
aventi per arma un sol ago,
polla, oggi, di grandi riforme,
in questa occasione T'esprime,
o bardo di epoche nuove,
l'augurio di chiari domani.

Riccardo Giraldi

Translation of Sciolti al cinghiale di Mason Avenue (Riccardo Giraldi) and Angelica Balabanoff appear on the next page

Verses to the Boar of Mason Avenue

A mighty voice
of Calabrian stock,
accustomed to the storms of the Sila,
to clashes and mighty trials—
Chicago saw you at twenty,
your bristling arms bare,
undaunted, a hater of tyrants.

The lofty program
of worthy demands,
which you formulated for the tailors,
united Sam's convictions with yours,
and at the Italian cry of hope
the banner of social justice
waved above the stands
drenched with the tears of oblivion.

From that America,
where yesterday poor devils
had only a needle for a weapon,
today there are great reforms.
On this occasion it expresses to you,
O bard of new eras,
the hope of brighter tomorrows.

Riccardo Giraldi

To our dear comrade Grandinetti and to the
comrades who testify to their affection for him,
their gratitude for having remained faithful through
all the vicissitudes of life to our great ideal of
Equality and Liberty, I send a fervent greeting of
solidarity and my very best wishes.

I am, always with and for Socialism, your comrade,

Angelica Balabanoff

Rome, 10-IV-57

Page S-15 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

TO

Emilio Grandinetti

ALL OUR WISHES FOR ANOTHER HALF CENTURY

Chicago Joint Board

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS

333 SOUTH ASHLAND BOULEVARD

SAMUEL SMITH

MANAGER

TO OUR TEACHER AND BROTHER

EMILIO GRANDINETTI

OUR BEST WISHES

ITALIAN LOCAL 270

A. C. W. A.

Chicago

TO YOU . . .

comrade Emilio Grandinetti, our salute
and best wishes for many more years
of good health and activity in behalf
of the workers.

CAMBONI, INC.

HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

S-16



NEL CINQUANTESIMO ANNO DI "VITA AMERICANA" DI EMILIO GRANDINETTI

Un tributo di G. D. Procopio

E' CON GIOIA ed animo grato che accogliamo l'invito dei compagni di Chicago, Ill., di aderire alla fraterna celebrazione del cinquantenario di residenza negli Stati Uniti del carissimo Emilio Grandinetti.

Rendere omaggio ad un affettuoso amico e compagno che vanta un nobile passato di attività giornalistiche e sindacali volte particolarmente al bene ed all'elevazione economica e spirituale dell'umile lavoratore del braccio, è un dovere altamente morale che trascende dai soliti convenevoli sociali. La sua innata modestia, il fermo adamantino carattere, la pura fede nel divenire umano e civile della società, attestano dell'uomo e del cittadino che il prossimo maggio sarà festeggiato fraternamente nell'industriale metropoli del Medio-Ovest.

L'iniziativa spontanea dei festeggiamenti è meritevole di plauso, e va salutata con entusiasmo da quanti, come noi, condividono ed apprezzano il significato morale del pubblico amorevole tributo all'energico combattente che, spontaneamente ed altruisticamente ha sin dalla prima giovinezza fatte sue le aspre vicende e le responsabilità della missione sindacale, in aperto contrasto col comodo benessere che gli offriva l'assetto economico della sua famiglia.

Le brutture dello schiavismo vigenti in questo Paese agli albori del secolo in ogni campo delle attività umane, non hanno scoraggiato l'indefesso pioniere della libertà e dell'affratellamento dei lavoratori.

Per comprendere le immense difficoltà di ambiente che bisognava fronteggiare, e valutare a fondo i sacrifici contro l'apatia del pubblico in generale, il rigore delle leggi reazionarie dominanti e le ingiustizie subite dai precursori dell'attuale movimento operaio, occorre richiamare l'attenzione riportandoci alla storia dei grandi conflitti che seguirono un'epoca di persecuzioni e tragedie senza fine.

Non sono stati pochi i compagni di fede e di speranze che precedentemente e dopo la prima guerra mondiale lasciarono la vita sulla linea del dovere in aiuto delle masse operaie scioperanti. Infiniti poi, i casi di malvagità bestiale sfogata su uomini inermi dai famuli della "Pinkerton" (la vile agenzia poliziesca privata) e della malavita al soldo di ditte private, della Camera di Commercio locale, e molto spesso dall'Associazione Industriale Nazionale (National Manufacturers Association).

Duro, decisamente snervante e micidiale si è presentato il lavoro di affiatamento e di affermazione del movimento operaio fino all'introduzione delle riforme sociali del New Deal, introdotte dal Presidente Franklin Delano Roosevelt, per mettere fine alla tragedia della storica depressione economica che aveva immiserito profondamente la vita delle masse lavoratrici da un capo all'altro della Nazione.

I nuovi immigranti dovrebbero leggere la storia, conoscere le difficoltà, gli ostacoli incontrati dai primi venuti in questa nostra patria di adozione per la conquista di un pane men duro e dei vevoli benefici sociali che il lavoratore militante gode nei quadri dell'odierno movimento del Lavoro, forte di oltre sedici milioni di rappresentati.

Se del progresso è stato realizzato, e non v'è dubbio, bisogna d'altronde tener presente le avversioni, le sofferenze, il carcere ed il sangue versato dai nostri pionieri per l'affermazione dei principii di solidarietà umana

(Continua a pagina 19)

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Translation of G. D. Procopio's tribute appears on the next page.

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of Emilio Grandinetti's "American Life"

A tribute by G. D. Procopio

It is with joy and a grateful heart that we accept the invitation of our friends in Chicago, Illinois, to join in the fraternal celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival in the United States of our dear Emilio Grandinetti.

To pay tribute to an affectionate friend and comrade who has had a noble record of journalistic and union activity, particularly for the advancement and economic and spiritual betterment of the humble workingman, is a high moral duty that goes beyond the usual social conventions. His innate modesty, his steadfast character, his pure faith in human and civic dignity, attest to the man and citizen whose achievement will next May be fraternally celebrated in the industrial metropolis of the Midwest.

The spontaneous initiative behind these celebrations deserves praise and should be greeted with enthusiasm by those who, like us, share and appreciate the moral significance of this affectionate public tribute to the energetic fighter who, spontaneously and altruistically, has made the harsh experiences and responsibilities of the union mission his own since his earliest youth, in open opposition to the comfortable prosperity that his family provided.

The brutality of the system of exploitation prevailing in this country at the beginning of the century did not discourage the tireless pioneer of freedom and workers' brotherhood.

To understand the immense difficulties of the environment he had to confront, and to fully appreciate the sacrifices made in opposition to the apathy of the public at large, the severity of the reactionary laws then in force, and the injustices suffered by the pioneers of the present-day labor movement, we must recall the history of the great conflicts that followed during an era of endless persecution and tragedy.

There were many comrades of faith and hope who, before and after the First World War, left their lives on the front lines in the service of striking workers. There were, too, countless cases of brutal violence inflicted upon defenseless men by the infamous "Pinkertons" (the private police agency), by private detectives hired by the local Chamber of Commerce, and very often by the National Industrial Association (National Manufacturers Association).

Harsh, ruthlessly cruel, and murderous was the work of intimidation and suppression carried out against the labor movement until the introduction of the social reforms of the New Deal, introduced by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to put an end to the historic tragedy of the economic depression that had so deeply impoverished the lives of working people from one end of the nation to the other.

New immigrants should learn this history, understand the difficulties and obstacles faced by those who came before them to this adopted country in their struggle for a less harsh existence and for the valuable social benefits that the militant worker enjoys today within the ranks of the modern labor movement, which represents more than sixteen million members.

If progress has been achieved—and there is no doubt that it has—we must nevertheless bear in mind the opposition, the suffering, the imprisonment, and the blood shed by our pioneers in establishing the principles of human solidarity that are the foundation of all social and civic progress.

Page S-17 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

Please note that the last paragraph is translated in its entirety even though it is split between pages S-17 and S-19. The tribute's translation continues after page S-19.

WE SALUTE

Emilio Grandinetti

on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the United States. Brother Grandinetti has spent these fifty years in the constant and conscientious service of the labor movement. He is a good friend and effective colleague in our many joint endeavors.

Amalgamated Clothing Workers Of America — AFL-CIO

JACOB S. POTOFKY
General President

FRANK ROSENBLUM
General Secretary-Treasurer

HYMAN BLUMBERG
Executive Vice-President

Our heartiest greetings to Brother

EMILIO GRANDINETTI

and our best wishes for many more years of good health for the continuation of his fruitful work and happiness with his family.

CINCINNATI JOINT BOARD A. C. W. A.

Jack Kroll, Manager
Marco Meccia, Assistant Manager
Henry Seibert, Walter T. Grainger,
Joseph Sepate
Business Representative
Emma Ferrari, Educational Director

OUR BEST WISHES TO A GOOD MAN

SHOE SERVICE UNION

Local 563 - RWDSU — AFL-CIO

23 FLATBUSH AVE.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

S-18

Procopio . . .

(Continua da pagina 17)

che sono la base di ogni progresso sociale e civile.

Ed è soprattutto di grande interesse storico rimandare ai posteri l'eco incoraggiante del contributo dato dall'elemento di avanguardia italiano, collo istituire periodici linguistici, biblioteche, circoli socialisti, scuole educative per lo sviluppo delle nostre masse immigrate, lontane dalla famiglia e poveramente abbandonate a sè stesse . . .

E' in tale atmosfera di solidarietà fraterna di qua dell'Atlantico che si inserisce amorevolmente l'ex studente in ingegneria: l'amico Emilio Grandinetti. All'impiego di redazione al "Bollettino della Sera" e dell'"Araldo Italiano" di New York, e alla direzione del "Corriere di Chicago," il carissimo compagno di lotta preferisce il campo sindacale a vantaggio dell'umile lavoratore in estremo bisogno di aiuto, di elevazione sociale e di stimolo per redimersi dalla abietta schiavitù economica vigente.

Egli fa sua, sinceramente e indefessamente sua, la causa operaia, consacrando ad essa i tesori del suo sapere e della sua intelligenza, portandosi, nel corso di lunghissimi anni, ovunque venga richiesta l'opera fraterna di redenzione emancipatrice.

L'Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, il forte organismo sindacale (al quale abbiamo dato anche noi per un ventennio il modesto contributo) che dal 1914 rappresenta attraverso il Paese i sarti da uomo nell'industria dell'ago, ha massimamente usufruito delle superiori qualità organizzative del Grandinetti.

Le maestranze di Rochester, N. Y., di Cleveland e Cincinnati, Ohio, di St. Louis, Mo. e di altre località lontane ricordano con amore e riconoscenza gli impegni, i sacrifici, l'opera fattiva sua impegnata allo sviluppo e all'affermazione della Organizzazione ed al benessere dei suoi aderenti locali e nazionali.

"Inquadrare in poche righe un mezzo secolo di attività in un campo dei più complessi non è di fa-

cile attuazione," mi faceva osservare il caro amico in un incontro recente nella città di Chicago, Ill., dove egli risiede in pensione con la sua gentile compagna e figli. "Particolarmente, aggiungeva, se tale attività viene esplicata in località diverse, fra gente mai conosciuta ed in ambienti differenti . . . Lo spostamento continuo da una città all'altra è un problema preoccupante e di non facile soluzione.

Ricordare il passato, peraltro, è come rivivere momenti di ansie e di decisive affermazioni umane, ed io sono davvero orgoglioso dei sacrifici e del contributo dato a diffondere il concetto della solidarietà per lo sviluppo dei sindacati ed il miglioramento economico e sociale della classe lavoratrice."

Il grande simposio, che saluterà il

cinquantesimo anno dall'arrivo negli Stati Uniti del nostro Grandinetti, sarà indubbiamente non solo la espressione del riconoscimento dei suoi alti meriti dai compagni che gli sono stati accanto nelle dure lotte sindacali, ma sarà soprattutto un pubblico attestato di fede e gratitudine in nome delle legioni di operai che hanno avuto in lui un'energica guida nelle pressanti battaglie di emancipazione e di riscatto.

All'amico e compagno Emilio giungano accoglienti le nostre congratulazioni e l'espressione sincera e fraterna dei compagni della "Shoe Service Union" in questa solenne ricorrenza, che tanto onora le sue alte qualità di energico combattente dell'ideale che non conosce soste e non avrà mai tramonti.

O' Sciopero d' 'e Sarti di Chicago**CANZONE D'OCCASIONE**

Versi di Giuseppe Ambra

Musica del Maestro L. Quaglia

CORO

Tenimmo n'allegrezza
Pe dint'a chisto core;
Si vanno dint' 'a rezza
Cu "please" a cummannà
Currimmo tutte quante,
Cu amice e cu pariente:
Sta razza 'e serpiente
L' avimm' 'a subissà.

III

E vuie, nennelle care
Comm'a rruselle 'e maggio,
Mo' datave curaggio
Pecchè se vinciarrà.
Pe nuie songo cunfiette,
P' 'e bosse è na sconfitta;
L' oro so' bell' 'e fritte
E ghiesseno a firmà.

CORO

Tenimmo n'allegrezza
Pe dint'a chisto core:
Chisti mazzuni 'e rezza
A zuppa 'avimm' 'a fa.
Evviva 'o Comitato,
Tu vi' che sape fal
Nce 'o dicimmo 'e core
Cient'anni ha da campà.

I
Vedite ch'allegria
Si vince ll'Unione,
Allora lu Patrone
Chiù nun po' cummannà.
Nun è comm'a na vota
Ca puteano fa' 'e nziste:
Mo' simmo Unioniste,
E nce hanno' 'a rispettà!

CORO

Tenimmo n'allegrezza
Pe dint'a chisto core;
Si vanno dint' 'a rezza
Cu "please" a cummannà
Currimmo tutte quante
Cu amice e cu pariente:
Sta razza 'e serpiente
L' avimmu' 'a subissà.

II

Bertelli e Grandinetti
Se fanno grand'onore,
Facemmo a tutte ll'ore
"Mitinghe" 'a ccà e 'a llà.
Sbattimmo tutt' 'e mmane
C' 'applause e cu fracasso,
Cu suone, cante e chiasso
Vulimmo sta 'alluccà!

Questa "Canzone" venne pubblicata durante lo sciopero dei sarti nel 1910 a Chicago e l'autore era il proprietario del Restaurant Vittoria, sito al numero 852 Blue Island Avenue, dove — i nostri vecchi lettori lo confermano — si mangiava molto bene ed economicamente ed era il ritrovo dei socialisti del West Side.

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of Emilio Grandinetti's "American Life"

A tribute by G. D. Procopio (continued from page S-17)

It is above all important to remind posterity of the encouraging impact made by the Italian vanguard, which established newspapers, libraries, socialist clubs, and educational schools for the development of our immigrant masses, far removed from their families and often miserably abandoned to themselves.

It was in this atmosphere of fraternal solidarity on this side of the Atlantic that the early experience of our Emilio Grandinetti took place. As an editor of *Il Bollettino della Sera* and *L'Araldo Italiano* of New York, and as editor of the *Corriere di Chicago*, our tireless comrade preferred the union field, where there was a need for help, social education, and encouragement to free oneself from the economic misery of the day.

He sincerely and wholeheartedly embraced the workers' cause, dedicating to it the treasures of his knowledge and intelligence and, over the course of his long career, wherever his fraternal work of emancipation was needed.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the powerful union organization to which we too have contributed for a quarter century, has since 1914 represented throughout the country the highest organizational qualities of Grandinetti.

The masses of workers in Rochester, New York; Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; and many other communities recall with affection and recognition his efforts, his sacrifices, and his tireless work for the development and strengthening of the organization and for the well-being of its local and national organizations.

"To sum up in a few lines half a century of activity in one of the most complex fields is not easy," he observed to me when, during a recent meeting in Chicago, I found my dear friend retired with his gracious companion and daughters.

"Especially," he added, "when such activity is carried out in different places, among people one has never known before, and in completely different environments... The constant movement from one city to another is a problem that is difficult and has no easy solution."

Remembering the past, moreover, means reliving moments of anxiety and decisive human achievements, and I am truly proud of the sacrifices and contributions made to spread the concept of solidarity and to improve the economic and social condition of the working class.

The great symposium that will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Grandinetti's arrival in the United States will undoubtedly be not only an expression of recognition for his great achievements by the comrades who stood beside him in the union struggles, but above all a public testimony of faith and gratitude on the part of the workers' organizations that have had in him a guide through the arduous battles of emancipation and redemption.

To our friend and comrade Emilio Grandinetti go our congratulations and the sincere and fraternal expression of the Shoe Service Union on this solemn anniversary, which honors his high qualities as an energetic fighter for an ideal that knows neither exhaustion nor surrender.

Page S-19 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

The Tailors' Strike of Chicago – An Occasional Song
Verses by Giuseppe Ambra & Music by Maestro L. Quaglia

I
See how happy we are,
The Union has won!
Now the Boss
Can no longer give the orders.
It isn't like it used to be,
When they could do as they pleased.
Now we are union men,
And they must respect us!

CHORUS
We are filled with happiness
Deep within our hearts;
If they come at us with their orders,
Saying “please” as they command,
We will all come running,
Friends and relatives together.
This breed of snakes—
We must crush them!

II
Bertelli and Grandinetti
Are bringing great honor to themselves.
We shout at every opportunity,
“Minghie!” here and there.
We clap our hands together,
With applause and a great commotion;
With music, singing, and noise,
We intend to make ourselves heard!

CHORUS
We are filled with happiness
Deep within our hearts;
If they come at us with their orders,
Saying “please” as they command,
We will all come running,
Friends and relatives together.
This breed of snakes—
We must crush them!

III
And you, dear young women,
Like May roses,
Now give us courage,
Because victory will be ours.
For us, it's a celebration;
For the bosses, it's a defeat.
Their gold is all but fried—
Let them come and sign!

CHORUS
We are filled with happiness
Deep within our hearts;
Those big sticks of theirs—
We'll turn them into soup!
Long live the Committee,
You know how to get things done!
From the bottom of our hearts we say it:
May it live for a hundred years!

This “Song” was published during the tailors’ strike of 1910 in Chicago, and the author was the proprietor of the Vittoria Restaurant, located at 852 Blue Island Avenue, where, as our longtime readers know, one could eat very well and inexpensively, and which was a gathering place for the Socialists of the West Side.

Page S-19 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026. Please note: Translated from Italian-American/Neapolitan dialect; some idiomatic expressions have been rendered for meaning rather than literally.

AUGURI

**ITALIAN CLOAK, SUIT & SKIRT
MAKERS' UNION
LOCAL 48 - I.L.G.W.U.**

231 EAST 14th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

E. HOWARD MOLISANI
Manager - Secretary
Vice-President, I.L.G.W.U.

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CHICAGO 10, ILL.

TO OUR GOOD FRIEND GRANDINETTI

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

LOCAL 142, ACWA

B. ADDEO — R. DE MATTIA — P. PIZZO

11-27 Arion Place
Brooklyn, N. Y.

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES

PHILIP DE LUCA

National Representative ACWA

Philadelphia, Pa.

COMPLIMENTS OF

RETAIL CLERKS COUNCIL No. 9

CINCINNATI, OHIO

George Porcaro

Il nostro saluto ad un pioniere del lavoro
Italo-Americano — EMILIO GRANDINETTI

JOHN T. ARUFFO, Manager
LOCAL 483 — I.L.G.W.U.
Gardena, California

FRANK DATO, Manager
LOCAL 497

Out of Town Cloak Dept.
Los Angeles, California

MIKE CRISTOFARO, Business Agent
Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board

BEST WISHES

**LOS ANGELES JOINT BOARD
ACWA**

Los Angeles, California
Jerome Posner, Manager

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I PRIMI CINQUANT'ANNI

di Pietro Greco

EMILIO GRANDINETTI, oltre ad essere un convinto socialista, ha un'anima aperta alle gentilezze che sono le caratteristiche degli spiriti superiori. Ama le cose delicate e gentili ed odia la tirannide nemica della Libertà e barriera all'evoluzione dei popoli oppressi, perchè fortificò il carattere alla dura scuola della vita, al contatto delle masse lavoratrici in cerca d'un pezzo di pane meno stentato e di quella Libertà, come dice il poeta:

.....che è sì cara,
Come sa chi per lei vita rifiuta.

Agli albori del presente secolo ed anche prima, nel diciannovesimo, la Libertà era soltanto una vanteria dei dominatori del tempo, che, monumentata e messa a vedetta della formidabile ed insonne città, sulle rive dell'Hudson, serviva bene a mascherare l'avidità degli industriali e commercianti, allettando gli emigranti europei, che lasciavano i loro paesi, sotto il dominio di vecchie caste privilegiate e di monarchie che sognavano imperi e conquiste, pronte a schiavizzare altri popoli che volevano vivere liberi ed indipendenti, con la scusa di emanciparli. Il popolo lavoratore d'Italia emigrava in massa, stanco dal governo dispotico che, al più piccolo pretesto, mitragliava chi non voleva guerre, ed esigeva un sistema di vita più adatto ai tempi, e farla finita con l'iniquo sistema feudale, non interamente estirpato, dopo la formidabile rivoluzione francese del 1779 ed i moti insurrezionali che scossero i popoli della vecchia Europa! Questa era la vita sociale al tempo delle prime emigrazioni, ed anche più tardi, quando il nostro Emilio mise piede in questa terra.

Ma i tempi dovevano cambiare per ubbidire alla legge dell'evoluzione. Quando l'ora della riscossa suonò per gli oppressi lavoratori d'America, e il fuoco della rivolta divampò nelle miniere della Virginia e del West Virginia; della Pennsylvania e del Kentucky, nelle seterie di Paterson e di Lawrence; e, poi, col tempo, la rivolta si allargò fino a diventare seria minaccia contro gli aguzzini che sfruttavano i lavoratori in genere, ma più spietatamente le povere masse di emigrati. Lo sciopero generale paralizzò le sartorie di New York e dei centri industriali dei diversi Stati dell'Unione Nord-Americana. Il nostro Emilio, che simpatizzava con l'avvento d'un migliore sistema economico e sociale, si gettò nella mischia per combattere, a fianco dei lavoratori, con gli altri pionieri che sentivano la tragedia delle masse disorganizzate, vittime di sfruttatori senza anima. A quei primi lottatori si deve il progresso e il benessere che oggi godono gli operai d'America.

Nel vasto quadro del lavoro organizzato, specificamente in quello dei sarti da uomo, il nostro Emilio entrò pieno di fede, come l'Apostolo dell'Ideale che, nei suoi sogni d'amore fraterno, vede lembi di paradiso, pronti ad accogliere la nuova umanità, se riuscisse a purificarsi, ed emergere vittoriosa dagli errori del passato e del presente. Lavorò assiduamente pel miglioramento della classe lavoratrice, senza transigere o venire a patti disonesti col rivale. In questa opera d'amore fu sorretto dalla rettitudine del carattere inamovibile e forte, perchè nelle sue vene circola il sangue dei suoi antenati, che lottarono coraggiosamente contro gli abusi dei tempi, per vendicare l'onore delle loro donne e la Libertà. Mi riferisco a quei forti calabresi che vissero al tempo delle dominazioni straniere e che, ingiustamente, furono chiamati Briganti!

(Continua a pagina 23)

Translation on next page.

The First Fifty Years

by Pietro Greco

Emilio Grandinetti, besides being a convinced socialist, has a soul attuned to the gentleness and noble characteristics of superior spirits. He loves delicate and kind things and hates the tyranny that is the enemy of Liberty and a barrier to the advancement of oppressed peoples, because it strengthens the character for the hard school of life, in contrast to the working masses in search of a piece of bread less stale and of that Liberty, as the poet says:

“...which is dear to you,
because you know what life rejected is.”

At the dawn of the twentieth century and even before, in the nineteenth century, Liberty was merely a hunting ground for the rulers of the age, who enslaved and subjected the formidable and imposing forces of the United States, its Hudson River, serving well to conceal the greed of industrialists and merchants, while awaiting European immigrants who left their countries under the domination of the rich, who had been dreaming of conquests, ready to enslave other peoples who wanted to live free and independent, with the sole goal of emancipating themselves. The working people of Italy emigrated in great numbers, weary of the despotic government that, at the slightest pretext, threatened them with war, and they demanded a system of life more suited to the times and an end to the feudal system, which had not yet been completely eradicated after the terrible revolution of 1779 and the insurrections that shook the old peoples of Europe. This was the social life at the time of the first emigrations, and even more so when our Emilio arrived in this country.

But times had to change in accordance with the law of evolution. When the cry of revolt arose among the most progressive workers of America, the fires of rebellion erupted in the mines of Virginia and West Virginia; in the mines of Pennsylvania and Kentucky; in the Seven Hills of Paterson and Lawrence; and then, over time, the revolt spread until it became a serious threat against the bosses who exploited workers in general, but especially the poor immigrant masses. The general strike paralyzed the garment shops of New York and the industrial centers of various states of the Union. Our Emilio, who sympathized with the advent of a better economic and social system, threw himself into the struggle to combat it alongside the workers, with the humble pioneers who felt deeply the tragedy of the disorganized masses, victims of heartless exploiters. To those first fighters is owed the progress and well-being that the workers of America enjoy today.

Within the broad picture of organized labor, specifically in the men's clothing industry, our Emilio entered with deep faith, embracing the Ideal which, in his dreams of fraternal love, he saw as a vision of paradise, ready to welcome the new humanity; and he succeeded in purifying himself and rising above the mistakes of the past and present. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of the working class, without compromise or forming partnerships with rivals. In this labor of love he was driven by the unyielding nature of his character, because in his veins ran the blood of his ancestors, who courageously fought against the abuses of their times, to vindicate the honor of their women and Liberty.

I refer to those Calabrians who lived in the midst of foreign domination and who, unjustly, were called brigands!

Page S-21 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026. Translation continues after page S-23.

BELL OIL COMPANY

Congratulations

and

Success



Sam Nanini

Kildare 5-1600

S-22

Pietro Greco . . .

(Continua da pagina 21)

Il nostro Emilio, per le sue qualità morali ed intellettuali, fu amato e rispettato dai lavoratori e dai superiori. Nell'Amalgamated copri posti di fiducia, riuscendo, con la azione e la parola, ad illuminare le coscienze dei lavoratori, col far loro capire la legittimità delle loro aspirazioni, nelle richieste ai padroni.

Questo il condottiero operaio e il lottatore cosciente che aiutò i lavoratori a conquistare i diritti di lavoro e di pane, che sono l'indispensabile mercurio che segna i progressi dell'umanità, nel corso dei secoli.

Il nostro, oltre ad essere un abile condottiero di masse lavoratrici, in lotta per il proprio benessere: è uno studioso che vanta una cultura classica, non comune, non solo perchè in Italia frequentò i corsi universitari, ma anche perchè è uno studioso per elezione.

Nel campo giornalistico si distingue con la lucidità dell'ingegno, la nitidezza delle idee, le verità espresse in articoli politici di largo respiro: interessanti per la vigoria

dello stile incisivo. Emerse anche con brevi resoconti ed annotazioni di sicuro interesse collettivo.

Nel 1947, se ben ricordo, dopo avermi reso il favore di far pubblicare in un quotidiano di Chicago, largamente diffuso, certe mie recensioni su libri di poeti di mia stretta conoscenza, ed anche un lungo studio sul mio libro di liriche: "Alba e Tramonto" scritto dal chiaro scrittore Avv. Vito Migliaccio da Catanzaro, mi scrisse una lettera, informandomi che insieme ad un suo amico e compagno di fede: Egidio Clemente, avrebbero riprese le interrotte pubblicazioni della famosa Rivista Socialista **La Parola del Popolo** fondata nel 1908 dal ben noto propagandista socialista e cultore di scienze sociali e naturali: Prof. Giuseppe Bertelli. Mi volle collaboratore fin dal primo numero. La Rivista venne esteticamente attraente; un vero gioiello! per l'eleganza della carta, l'oculata cura tipografica, la competenza tecnica e il valore degli scritti in prosa e poesia, dovuti alle più valide penne d'Italia e d'America! La Rivista, come tutti sanno, continua le pubblicazioni, affermandosi di anno in anno, nel campo politico

e letterario. Questo miracolo si avverò per l'inflessibile lavoro di due uomini, compagni di fede e di speranza: Egidio Clemente ed Emilio Grandinetti. Il primo con la perizia di vecchio navigato Editore, che conosce i segreti della difficile arte di preparare e stampare libri, giornali e Riviste; il secondo con l'ausilio della vasta cultura, col maneggio della penna e la conoscenza profonda della sociologia e della letteratura.

Così, questi rari gemelli del pensiero e dell'azione, uniti dal medesimo ideale di fratellanza umana, socialisti coscienti e disinteressati, si unirono nel comune lavoro, per dare agli intellettuali idealisti e agli operai intelligenti una Rivista completa.

Ecco perchè io esultai quando seppi che il compagno e fratello Emilio Grandinetti, dopo lunga esitazione, accettò gli onori che, giustamente, i suoi compagni di fede, con a capo Egidio Clemente, gli tributano! Ciò egli merita per le lotte sostenute in difesa dei lavoratori, per la saldezza del carattere, la bontà del cuore e l'intelligenza messa al servizio delle più belle cause.



Sorgete, compagni, noi siamo milioni
noi siamo la vita, noi siamo la storia,
sorgete intonando le rosse canzoni,
sorgete, compagni, noi siamo la vittoria!

—G. Bertelli

SALVE EMILIO GRANDINETTI!

Vogliamo celebrare con te cinquanta anni di vita americana che tu hai speso a pro della classe lavoratrice.

Quante cose si sono succedute in questo mezzo secolo! Lotte accanite, guerre, rivoluzioni, sconfitte e vittorie della classe lavoratrice, anche nei momenti più oscuri hai seguito la lotta per il benessere dei diseredati e contro tutte le ingiustizie: sempre a fronte alta, non piegandoti mai.

Con la propaganda scritta ed orale, in mezzo agli sfruttati, tu hai portato la luce nelle nostre comunità ed hai alzato il morale e difeso il nome d'Italia contro i prominenti e contro i malviventi.

La patria non si rinnega. I governi si susseguono ma la nostra grande Italia rimane.

Nel celebrare questo "Golden Anniversary" ti auguro lunga vita e poter così arrivare alla meta, per la quale hai dato i primi cinquanta anni. E' un onore essere al tuo fianco.

Viva il Socialismo.

A. Camboni

The First Fifty Years

Pietro Greco (continued from page S-21)

Our Emilio, because of his moral and intellectual qualities, is loved and respected by the workers and his superiors. At the Amalgamated, he covered positions of trust, using action and words to shed light on the workers' knowledge and make them understand the legitimacy of their aspirations and demands for improvement.

This conscious and productive worker-leader, who helped workers win their rights to work and bread, is the indispensable mechanism that drives humanity's progress through the centuries.

Our Emilio, besides being an able leader of the masses of working people in their struggle for their own well-being, is a scholar who possesses an uncommon classical culture—not only because he frequently attended university courses in Italy, but also because he was a dedicated scholar by choice.

In the field of journalism, he distinguished himself through the clarity and dignity of his ideas, the truth expressed in political articles of broad scope, and his incisive and literary style. He also produced brief reports and annotations of certain interest to the public.

In 1947, if I remember correctly, after doing me the favor of having some of my reviews of books by poets I knew personally, as well as a lengthy study of my book of lyrics, *Alba e Tramonto*, published in a widely circulated Chicago newspaper, he wrote me a letter informing me that, together with his friend and fellow believer Egidio Clemente, he would resume the interrupted publication of the famous Socialist magazine *La Parola del Popolo*, founded in 1908 by the well-known socialist propagandist and scholar of social and natural sciences, Prof. Giuseppe Bertelli. He asked me to become a regular contributor from the first issue. The magazine was aesthetically attractive, a true little jewel, because of the elegance of its typography, the careful presentation, the technical expertise, and the value of its prose and poetry, written by the finest talents of Italy and America. *La Rivista*, as everyone knows, continued publication year after year, establishing itself in the political and literary sphere.

This miracle was achieved through the tireless work of two men, comrades of faith and hope: Egidio Clemente and Emilio Grandinetti. The first, with the experience of a veteran editor, knew the secrets of the difficult art of preparing and publishing books, newspapers, and magazines; the second, with his mastery of culture, skill with the pen, and profound knowledge of sociology and literature.

Thus these rare twins of thought and action, united by the same ideal of human brotherhood, conscious and disinterested socialists, joined together in the common work of producing a complete magazine, to give the idealists and intelligent workers a complete publication.

And that is why I rejoiced when I learned that our comrade and brother Emilio Grandinetti, after a long career, had received the honors that, together with his faithful comrades, headed by Egidio Clemente, he had earned! He deserved them for the struggles he had waged in defense of the workers, for the nobility of his character, and for having placed the goodness of his heart and his intelligence at the service of the finest causes.

Page S-23 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026. Additional page S-23 translations follow.

Rise up, comrades, we are millions,
we are life, we are history;
rise up, singing our bold songs,
rise up, comrades, we are victorious!

—G. Bertelli

Hail, Emilio Grandinetti!

We wish to celebrate with you the fifty years of American life that you have devoted to the working class.

How many things have happened in this half-century! Bitter struggles, wars, revolutions, defeats and victories of the working class; and even in the darkest moments you have always fought for the well-being of the underprivileged and against every injustice—always with your head held high, never bowing down.

Through written and spoken propaganda, amid the oppressed, you have brought enlightenment to our communities and raised the moral standing of the Italian people against the prominent and the powerful.

One does not renounce one's homeland. Governments come and go, but our great Italy remains.

In celebrating this “Golden Anniversary,” I wish you a long life, so that you may reach the goal for which you have fought during these first fifty years. It is an honor to stand at your side.

Long live Socialism.

A. Camboni

Page S-23 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

Lettera aperta ad **Emilio Grandinetti**

Egregio Amico,

da quel lontano luglio 1954, non ci è stato più possibile rivederci, nè tanto meno il silenzio è stato interrotto da una corrispondenza "ad personam": ci siamo soltanto uniti e, direi quasi, fusi, però, attraverso l'aiuto del nostro infaticabile Clemente, e "La Parola," da battagliera rivista sociale che è, è divenuta per noi l'unica mano tesa sulle acque dell'Atlantico per rinnovare e rinsaldare quella comunione di spirito che avemmo modo di esprimere, quando felicemente ci conoscemmo.

E li ho qui tutti i Tuoi articoli, su questo tavolo di lavoro: ultimo dei quali, il magistrale e coraggioso "pezzo" sulla Calabria, che non è e non vuole essere protesta contro la luna, nè tanto meno una condanna al fato, bensì una messa a punto sulle responsabilità politiche e morali dei governanti, di ieri e di oggi: e soprattutto, una disamina attenta e minuta della miseria e dell'arretratezza che ancora domina in quel lembo d'Italia, più onusta di storia e di gloria della stessa Roma. Ed il tuo scritto non è stato un superfluo nè pettegolo, ad onta delle incomprensioni irriducibili di certuni a capire psicologicamente più che in termini latè e gratuiti problemi di così grande importanza e significato.

Noi siamo con Te, o pioniere di rivendicazioni sociali, quando affermi, che la Calabria è stata veramente abbandonata a bella posta: e non soltanto come affermi Tu, per troppa bontà d'animo, ma anche e soprattutto per paura: la calabrese gente, meno razzialmente compromessa con incroci e quindi più gagliarda e più pura, una volta risalita la china dell'ignoranza e messa in condizioni di parità economica con le altre regioni, avrebbe certamente superato in vivezza d'ingegno e in oneste realizzazioni civili quanti oggi si dicono di essere in Italia più in gamba. Milano e Firenze, Genova e Torino, impallidirebbero per poco che in Ca-

labria sorgesse una fonte di lavoro con assorbimento continuo della mano d'opera. E già lo attesta la nostra Cosenza, che nel giro di pochi anni, solo per la presenza di pochi economisti liberali-socialisti e di spirito nuovo, ha cambiato volto, e di pochi cassettoni di case ha fatto una città dal largo respiro e aperta domani ad avere un centro universitario.

Mio caro apostolo di verità, verranno i tempi belli, verranno. E i nordici si ricrederebbero. Ci incolpano di mentalità stantia e opaca: e l'avete dimostrato voi altri che siete all'estero così è la Calabria e cosa potrà divenire.

Ma, a parte questa impennata di Tuo faticissima ispirazione, la Tua rubrica "Annotando e Commentando," mi ha dato modo, ad ogni numero, di trovare il conforto di una voce tranquilla e sincera, spesa sempre a indicare la via giusta, a spronare i deboli, ad esaltare i martiri dell'idea di libertà. Ed io spesso Ti ho ascoltato con intimo raccoglimento, come quando mi ponevo, gomiti contro le tempie, entro la Tua dimora diletta a seguire la linea del Tuo pensiero o ad ammirare il calore costante e senza stridore delle Tue frasi.

Il Tuo socialismo è intemerato e cristallino, non conosce pause o tentennamenti, non soffre di complessi e di patteggiamenti: va diritto, verso l'umana fratellanza, e supera i ristretti confini di una mentalità partigiana, per aderirsi a vangelo, santificato dall'esempio costante, di una vita integra, retta, generosa, purificata da continui sacrifici e da vigorosi ideali.

Perciò, non Ti persuadono i Nenni, giocolieri di "divergenti-convergenze comunistoidi," non vai di pelo con gli "scansa-fatiche" dei parlamentari italiani che formano una nuova classe di arricchiti in questo Paese di morti di fame; dici male di Pietro Guadagnini, l'ex console d'Italia a Chicago (che nostro malgrado, ho avuto la ventura di conoscere), inteso solo a baciare le belle "rotonde ragazze," (come Tu

dici); non T'intendi con il dittatore dell'Ohio che lascia alla Westinghouse la facoltà di pagare i massacratori delle organizzazioni sindacali, e che so io.

E noi siamo d'accordo anche in ciò: e come non esserlo, se anche io mi sono educato alle visioni della Tua Sila austera e vergine, meravigliosa e possente, e se, per poco che Ti sono stato accanto, ho potuto constatare quanto grande sia il Tuo animo e bello il Tuo sentire?!

Non dico di più: capirai che quanto vorrei dire ancora Tu l'avverti di già. Ma, nel concludere una visione Ti voglio brevemente descrivere.

Un giorno, or non è molto, ho avuto in sogno una mia nuova venuta in America. E così fra i tanti amici miei, ho trovato anche Te. Io ero alla ricerca di un lavoro. Andavo a destra, andavo a sinistra, ma nessuno mi faceva luce. Passai dall'Illinois all'Indiana, dal Dakota al Missouri, dalla Florida in California, senza nulla concludere; poi, tornai a New York, deciso di prendere la nave e trasferirmi di nuovo in Italia. Ero stanco, smunto e pallido: sulle mie carni era uno straccio di camicia lurida e un paio di scarpe sgangherate. Avevo fame. Stavo per imprecare contro la terra della libertà, quando Ti sei presentato Tu. Mi hai consegnato un non so che cosa, forse una fiaccola, meglio una torcia: noi incendiammo le costruzioni capitalistiche, riducemmo l'altezza dei grattacieli, liberammo i poveri dalla fame e dal bisogno, e divenimmo ad un tratto, gli uomini del giorno. E Clemente Ti portava a vedere la rivista, nella cui prima pagina si leggeva a caratteri cubitali: "Grandinetti alla Presidenza degli Stati Uniti." Io, raggiante di gioia, a ricordo dei sacrifici sostenuti e in segno di tributo e di riconoscenza mi mettevo a piangere come un bambino, vinto dall'emozione.

E' un sogno. Ma, senza il sogno Dante non sarebbe passato attra-

S-24

The complete translation of Riccardo Giraldis tribute (pages S-24 & S-25) begins on the next page.

Open Letter to Emilio Grandinetti

Dear Friend,

Since that distant July of 1954, it has no longer been possible for us to see one another, nor has the silence been broken by any personal correspondence. We have only remained united—and I would almost say fused together—through the help of our tireless Clemente and *La Parola*, which, as a fighting social magazine, has become for us the only hand extended across the waters of the Atlantic, renewing and strengthening that communion of spirit which we once had the happy opportunity to express when we knew one another personally.

And here I have all your articles on this worktable, the latest of which is that masterful and courageous piece on Calabria. It is not, nor does it wish to be, a protest against the moon, still less a complaint against fate; rather, it is an examination of the political and moral responsibilities of the rulers, past and present. Above all, it is a careful and detailed analysis of the poverty and backwardness that still dominate that corner of Italy, a land more burdened with history and glory than Rome itself. And your article was neither superfluous nor petty, despite the stubborn inability of certain people to understand, in psychological rather than superficial and gratuitous terms, problems of such great importance and significance.

We stand with you, pioneer of social demands, when you affirm that Calabria has truly been abandoned to its fate—not only, as you say, through excessive kindness of spirit, but also and above all through fear. The people of Calabria, less racially compromised by intermarriage and therefore more hardy and pure, once they had climbed out of the depths of ignorance and been placed on an equal economic footing with the other regions, would certainly have surpassed them in intellectual vitality and in the honest civic accomplishments that today are said to make Italy more advanced. Milan and Florence, Genoa and Turin, would pale before them if Calabria were to develop a source of employment capable of providing continuous work.

And already our Cosenza bears witness to this: in just a few years, simply through the presence of a few liberal-socialist economists and people of new ideas, it has changed its character. A few collections of houses have been transformed into a city with broad horizons, one that is now on its way toward having a university center.

My dear apostle of truth, better times will come—they will come. And the Northerners will reconsider their views. They are constrained by a mentality that is tired and stagnant; and you have demonstrated to them what Calabria is abroad and what it can become.

But apart from this surge of your most inspired thinking, your column “Annotating and Commenting” has given me, each time, the comfort of finding a calm and sincere voice, one that so often points out the right path, encourages the weak, and exalts the martyrs of the idea of liberty. I have often listened to you with deep attention, as when I would lean my elbows on the temples of my head within your home, eager to follow the direction of your thinking or admire the constant warmth and lack of harshness in your words.

Your socialism is untempered and crystal clear. It knows neither pauses nor compromises; it suffers neither complexes nor posturing. It moves straight toward human brotherhood and rises above the narrow boundaries of a partisan mentality, embracing the Gospel, sanctified by the constant example of an upright, honest, generous life, purified by continual sacrifices and steadfast ideals.

Therefore, the Nenni, the gamblers of “Communist deviations,” do not persuade you; nor do you go along with the “scantly working” Italian parliamentarians who form a new class of the wealthy in this country of people dying from hunger. Tell me about Pietro Guadagnini, the former Italian consul in Chicago (whom, unfortunately, I had the good fortune to know), who was interested only in kissing beautiful “round young women,” as you say; he has no dealings with the governor of Ohio, who leaves Westinghouse free to pay the mass distributors of the unions, and so on.

And we agree with you on this as well. How could we not, when I too was raised amid visions of your austere and untouched Sila, marvelous and powerful—and when, during the short time I was by your side, I was able to see how great your spirit is and how beautiful your feelings are?!

I will say no more. You will understand that you already sense everything else I would like to say. But, to bring this picture to a close, I want to describe something to you briefly.

One day, not long ago, I dreamed that I had come to America again. And among my many friends, I found you too. I was looking for work. I went right, I went left, but no one could shed any light for me. I went from Illinois to Indiana, from the Dakotas to Missouri, from Florida to California, without accomplishing anything. Then I returned to New York, determined to take a ship and move back to Italy.

I was tired, gaunt, and pale; on my body was nothing but a ragged, dirty shirt and a pair of worn-out shoes. I was hungry. I was about to curse the land of liberty when you appeared.

You handed me something—I don't know what, perhaps a torch, better yet, a flaming torch. We set the capitalist structures ablaze, brought down the height of the skyscrapers, freed the poor from hunger and want, and suddenly became the men of the day.

And Clemente took you to see the magazine, whose front page proclaimed in enormous letters:

“Grandinetti for President of the United States.”

Overcome with joy, remembering the sacrifices endured and as a tribute and expression of gratitude, I began to cry like a child, overcome by emotion.

It is a dream. But without dreams, Dante would never have passed through...

Continues briefly and concludes with this on page S-25:

...toward the circles of Purgatory first, and then toward the Heavens.

Therefore, let the “Dinner” of next May 5 be not only a profound expression of gratitude to the “man who knows the storms,” but also, and even more so, the spark of a new movement, one more actively engaged in moving forward, so that with renewed hope we may leap toward the achievements that the working people await and that all humanity implores of You, of the banquet committee, and of all our comrades.

And as I too raise a toast to the greatest fortunes of the social ideal, of trade-union freedom, and of *La Parola del Popolo*, as well as to the good fortune of Your family and of You personally, I embrace You affectionately, saying:

“Hip, hip, hip... hooray!”

Riccardo Giraldi
Rome, April 1957

Pages S-24 & S-25 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

CALABRIA

Al compagno, all'amico, al fratello Emilio Grandinetti

Fra il Jonio ed il Tirreno
Siedi come regina,
Nella serena pace
Dei tuoi superbi monti.

Nei meriggi infocati
Del luminoso Giugno,
Spande il profumo il mirto;
E le ginestre in fiore
Vestono i colli aprichi
Di un abbagliante peplo.

Nelle valli dorate,
Lungo i sonori fiumi,
L'arancio cnesce florido.
L'ulivo millenario
Muove i suoi rami e pare
Un mescolio di argento
Di un semi calmo mare.

Sulle falde dei monti
Cresce la vite, e il fico
Lussureggiante tremola
L'ampie sue foglie al sole.
Il delicato pesco,
Il mandorlo ed il melo,
Danno abbondanti frutti
Di squisito sapore.

verso i gironi del Purgatorio prima, e dei Cieli poi.

Possa, pertanto, il "Dinner" del prossimo 5 maggio essere non solo la testimonianza di una gratitudine profonda all'"uomo che sa le tempeste," ma anche e più la scintilla di un nuovo movimento, più fattivamente operante, per balzare con più nutrita speranza verso conquiste che il popolo lavoratore attende e che l'umanità tutta implora da Te, dal comitato del banchetto e dai compagni tutti.

E nel brindare anch'io alle migliori fortune dell'idea sociale, delle libertà sindacali e della "Parola del Popolo," nonchè della Tua famiglia e Tua personale,

Ti abbraccio affettuosamente, dicendo: "ip, ip, ip . . . urrà!"

Riccardo Giraldi

Roma, Aprile 1957

Più su cresce il castagno,
Il noce, il gelso e il pero,
La quercia secolare
E il faggio maestoso;
I bruni abeti e i pini
Paion toccare il cielo!
Là sulle coste e in cima
Alle colline amene,
Sostano i borghi antichi,
E i nuovi tanto bianchi,
Pare che si riposino
Come camosci stanchi
Che ruminando stanno.

Oh, mio colle natio!
Allor che penso piango
Di averti un dì lasciato
Per il forzato esiglio.
Eppur col mio pensiero
Ritaccio quella strada
Che un dì giovin facevo,
Alla fontana nuova! . . .

E guardo in fondo e vedo
Quella striscia di argento
Tortuosa ed ineguale
Che è il mormorante Neto
Pria che raggiunga il mare.

E vedo i contadini
Pieni di ardore e fede,
Che tornan dal lavoro
Stanchi e pur giovali,
Attesi dalla prole
E dalle brune spose.

E poi vedo i pastori
Coi flauti e le bisacce,
Che scendono dai monti
Col gregge e lenti vanno
Verso le valli dove
L'inverno è sempre mite
E la pastura è ricca
Di sano nutrimento
Per le aspettanti madri.
O costumanze antiche
Dei nostri padri! Siete
Voi le più care all'anima
Che lontano da voi



Rimpiange, e ancora spera
Di rivedervi un giorno
Nella matura etate,
Quando la quiete è balsamo
Ai nervi indolenziti
Dalle passate lotte.

Sedere accanto ai vecchi
Amici dell'infanzia,
E rifare la strada
Del tempo andato,
E poi, assommare tutto
Nel libro della vita
E lasciarlo a retaggio
Alla veniente prole.

E poi, aspettar la morte
Con calma, sodisfatto,
Di non aver vissuto
Indarno, questa vita.

FRANCESCO GRECO

S-25

English translation of Calabria appears on the next page.

CALABRIA

**To my comrade, my friend, my
brother Emilio Grandinetti**

Between the Ionian and
Tyrrhenian seas
you sit like a queen,
in the peaceful stillness
of your magnificent mountains.

In the blazing noontime
of radiant June,
the myrtle spreads its fragrance;
and the flowering broom
clothes the sunlit hills
in a dazzling mantle.

In the golden valleys,
along the singing rivers,
the orange tree flourishes.
The thousand-year-old olive tree
moves its branches and seems
like a silver muscle
upon a half-calm sea.

On the mountain slopes
the grapevine grows, and the fig
tree
shimmers luxuriantly,
spreading its broad leaves
beneath the sun.
The delicate peach tree,
the almond and the apple,
yield abundant fruit
of exquisite flavor.

Higher up grow the chestnut,
the walnut, the mulberry and the
pear,

the centuries-old oak
and the majestic beech;
the dark firs and the pines
seem to touch the sky!

There, along the slopes and atop
the lovely hills,
stand the ancient villages,
and the newer ones, so white.
They seem to rest
like weary chamois
chewing their cud.

Oh, my native hills!
Whenever I think of you, I weep
at having left you behind
for forced exile.

Yet in my thoughts
I retrace that road
I once traveled as a boy,
to the new fountain...

And I look into the distance and
see
that silver ribbon,
winding and uneven,
the murmuring Neto
before it reaches the sea.

And I see the farmers,
full of ardor and faith,
returning from their work,
tired yet cheerful,
awaited by their children
and their dark-haired wives.

And then I see the shepherds
with their flutes and bagpipes,
coming down from the
mountains.

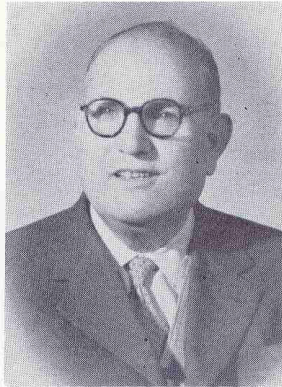
With their flocks they make their
way
toward the valleys where
the winter is always mild
and the pasture is rich
with wholesome nourishment
for the expectant mothers.

Oh, ancient customs
of our fathers! You are
the dearest things to the soul
that, far from you,
longs for you and still hopes
to see you again one day,
in the fullness of summer,
when tranquility is a balm
for nerves worn raw
by past struggles.

To sit beside the old people,
friends from childhood,
and retrace the road
of days gone by;
and then, to gather it all together
in the book of life
and leave it as a legacy
for the coming generation.

And then, to await death
calmly, satisfied
that one has not lived
this life in vain.

FRANCESCO GRECO



EMILIO GRANDINETTI è una di quelle figure nobili rimasta sempre più cara alla mia memoria.

Oltre un cinquantennio addietro lo conobbi studente a Messina, città dove io completavo gli studi universitari, e dal primo giorno del nostro incontro simpatizzammo, attratti da quei legami di amicizia vera e sentita che spontaneamente unisce tutte le anime buone lottanti per un comune ideale.

Lo ricordo ancora: di statura robusta con due occhioni da cui sprizzava intelligenza più viva e d'un faccione allietato da un perenne sorriso, Emilio riusciva simpaticissimo a quanti avevano la fortuna di avvicinarlo e di saperlo stimare per la sua dirittura morale e pel suo adamantino carattere di buon calabrese.

Militammo insieme nel Partito Socialista nel periodo difficile dei soprusi polizieschi sotto il governo di Giolitti il brigante di Dronero, che Emilio definiva "un carabiniere in feluca di Ministro dell'Interno."

Allora come adesso dominavano nel campo politico il partito conservatore ingrossato dal clericalume più settario e, dall'altra parte, si contrapponevano i partiti di estrema sinistra costituita dai Socialisti, Repubblicani e Radicali: quello fu il più bel periodo, perchè più movimentato, delle grandi battaglie parlamentari della Camera dei Deputati Italiana.

Noi studenti seguivamo appassionatamente le fasi della politica, attratti sempre più da quella **"Dea di Giustizia e Libertà"** che dall'alto dell'orizzonte gridava alle masse: "è l'ora" e, frequentando il circolo del Partito Socialista collaboravamo nei giornali di sinistra.

A Messina si stampava il "Germinal," un giornale allora socialista su cui sostenemmo molte campagne sferzando il mal costume dei deputati e del clero reazionari, opprimenti la vita dei nostri paesi, e ricordo a proposito un grande corteo organizzato in quella città per commemorare Giuseppe Mazzini, commemorazione imponente, fatta in contrapposto a quella dell'associazioni cattoliche in onore dell'Immacolata. Beati tempi, con quanta nostalgia vi ricordiamo e come vorremmo che ritornaste per procurarci ancora un bagno di quella giovinezza che sentiamo allontanarsi sempre più da noi!

Ci conforta ora il pensiero che in questi anni del nostro tramonto sentiamo ancora la gioia di vivere sui ricordi del passato e per quanto ancora operiamo in favore dell'educazione delle masse lavoratrici, alle quali insieme col caro Grandinetti ricordiamo i versi del Canto dell'Amore:

*Salute, o genti umane affaticate,
Tutto trapassa e nulla può morir!
Noi troppo odiammo e sofferimmo. Amate
Il mondo è bello e santo l'avvenir...*

Palermo, aprile, 1957

Angelo Borrello

S-26

Page S-26 translation appears on the next page

Angelo Borrello

Emilio Grandinetti is one of those noble figures who has remained ever dearer to my memory.

More than fifty years ago, I knew him as a student in Messina, the city where I was completing my university studies. From the very first day we met, we became friends, drawn together by genuine bonds of friendship and by a feeling that spontaneously unites all good people who are striving toward a common ideal.

I remember him still: a robust figure, with two eyes from which lively intelligence shone, and a face softened by a perpetual smile. Emilio succeeded in making himself liked by everyone and in earning their respect for his moral integrity and his good Calabrian character.

We fought together in the Socialist Party during the difficult period of police repression under the government of Giolitti, against the 'brigand from Dronero,' whom Emilio called 'a carabinieri in the service of the Minister of the Interior.'

At that time, the political arena was dominated on one side by the conservative party, deeply influenced by the more reactionary clergy, while on the other side were ranged the parties of the extreme left, consisting of Socialists, Republicans, and Radicals. It was the finest of periods, because it was the most active and vibrant, marked by the great parliamentary battles in the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

We students followed the unfolding of politics passionately, always attracted by the slogan "Peace, Justice and Liberty," which rang out from the heights of the horizon to the masses: "Now is the time!" And by frequenting the Socialist Party's circle, we worked in the newspapers of the left.

In Messina, *Il Germinal* was being published, a socialist newspaper on which we waged many campaigns, exposing the bad customs of deputies and reactionary clergy who oppressed the life of our country. I remember, in this connection, a great procession organized in that city to commemorate Giuseppe Mazzini—a tremendous commemoration, set in opposition to that of the Catholic association in honor of the Immaculate. Those were wonderful times! With what nostalgia we remember them, and how we would like to go back once more to that youth which we feel slipping farther and farther away from us!

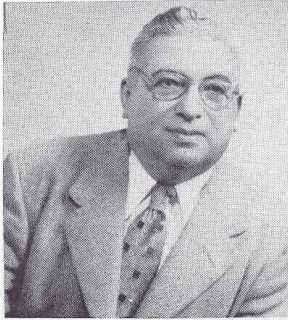
Today, as the thought of these years of our twilight consoles us, we still feel the joy of living in the memories of the past, and of continuing to work for the education of the working masses. To them, together with our dear Grandinetti, we recall the verses of the *Canto dell'Amore*:

*Hail, weary human beings,
Everything passes and nothing can die!
We love too little and suffer too much.
Love the world and make it beautiful....*

Palermo, April 1957

Angelo Borrello

Page S-26 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026



EMILIO GRANDINETTI può gridare fieramente con D'Annunzio: "Io ho quello che ho dato" e misurare la sua statura sulla immensa mole della Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America che costituisce una delle opere più stupende concepite dall'ambizioso genio della civiltà moderna. Questa organizzazione si eleva come un sublime monumento del lavoro ad illuminare le speranze dell'intera umanità. Emilio Grandinetti è uno dei più eroici architetti di questo faro di luce e di benessere, uno degli artefici più audaci, costruttore indefesso, brillante ardita e imperterrita guida. Quest'uomo illustre la cui commovente umiltà non è stata mai intaccata dalla formidabile forza dell'associazione, la cui onestà non è stata mai corrotta dalla favolosa ricchezza che lo circonda, la cui appassionata emozione nella difesa dell'umanità sofferente e della giustizia sociale conserva intatto tutto l'entusiasmo e la impetuosità giovanile; questo grand'uomo ora si erge immacolato su mezzo secolo di lotte, di sacrifici e di vittorie. Cinquanta anni di ansie e di fatiche, di gioie e di tristezze, di aspre diatribe, di attacchi, di difese e di concitati comizi, di tenere carezze e calde lacrime paterne, formano il dramma che attraverso le vicissitudini e le agitazioni della vita si svolge intorno ad una mente e a un cuore animati e spinti dal generoso sangue di Calabria. Questi dieci lustri si estendono sul cupo sfondo del Reventino e della Sila, delle valli, delle montagne e delle foreste alle cui ombre sature di epiche leggende cresce un popolo indomito e superbo, gentile dignitoso.

L'ideale che affascina lo spirito di questa gente vetusta nella diuturna lenta ascesa dei ripidi sentieri, tra le fitte boscaglie e sulle glauche insenature del mare è il culmine della giustizia e della gloria mentre quell'ombra animata da miti e da paurosi fantasmi perturba la fantasia e inflette il pensiero alla meditazione e alla filosofica e poetica divinazione:

*e lūcemi da lato
il calabrese abate Gioacchino
di spirito profetico dotato.*
(Dante Paradiso)

In quell'ambiente si è formato il carattere netto e gentile di Emilio Grandinetti che ha portato l'impronta personale di onore e saggezza, di sincerità e di affetto al movimento operaio di America. Quel carattere, quella generosa abnegazione, quell'emozione di entusiastico slancio per il povero e per l'oppresso che noi tutti profondamente ammiriamo.

Ed io che sotto l'egida della medicina mi arrogo la profonda soddisfazione di affettuosa familiarità cerco spesso e trovo sempre nel calore di solidarietà umana, nella sincera sconfinata simpatia per il dolore, nella espressione commossa e negli occhi umidi di Emilio Grandinetti, della sua devota Signora e nel sorriso della loro angelica Maria, un rifugio dello spirito, un conforto dell'anima ed un più grande amore verso il prossimo.

*Quando stanco degli uomini tu sia
Scendi al mar solitario e bagna il petto
Nelle porpore sacre dell'aurora.
Poi rianimato di novello affetto
Sorgi, combatti e benedici ancora.*

Nicola Emanuele

S-27

Page S-27 translation appears on the next page.

Nicola Emanuele

Emilio Grandinetti can proudly proclaim with D'Annunzio: "I have what I have given," and measure his stature against that immense model represented by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which constitutes one of the most astonishing works conceived by the ambitious genius of modern civilization.

This organization has risen with a sublime conception of labor, illuminating the hopes of all humanity. Emilio Grandinetti is one of its heroic architects, one of its most daring craftsmen, an indefatigable, brilliant and irrepressible builder. This illustrious man, whose entire community has never been shaken by the formidable strength of the organization, whose honesty has never been corrupted by the tempting lure of wealth, whose passionate emotion in defending suffering humanity and social justice has always preserved all the enthusiasm and youthful impetuosity—this great man now stands, enshrined, upon half a century of struggles, sacrifices and victories.

Fifty years of anxiety and fatigue, joys and sorrows, harsh debates, attacks, defenses and impassioned speeches, tender cares and warm paternal tears, form the drama that has unfolded around a mind and a heart animated and inspired by the generous blood of Calabria. These two illustrious figures extend from the deep roots of the Reventino and the Sila, from the valleys, mountains and forests whose shade, saturated with ancient legends, nourished a proud and sober, gentle and dignified people.

The ideal that inflamed the spirit of these people, slowly burning through the centuries along rugged paths, among wooded cliffs and beaches lashed by the sea, climbed the peaks of justice and glory, while that shadow animated by myths and fearful phantoms disturbed the imagination and directed thought toward meditation and philosophical and poetic divination:

*and lights from afar
the Calabrian abbot Gioacchino,
gifted with a prophetic spirit.
(Dante, Paradiso)*

It was in that environment that the noble and gentle character of Emilio Grandinetti was formed, and he carried with him the personal imprint of honor and wisdom, sincerity and devotion to the American labor movement. That character, that generous self-denial, that emotion of enthusiastic dedication to the poor and oppressed, is what we all profoundly admire.

And I, who under the aegis of medicine take refuge in this profound satisfaction of affectionate familiarity, often seek and always find, in the warmth of solidarity, a sincere comfort in suffering, in the moved expression and moist eyes of Emilio Grandinetti, in his devoted Lady and in the smiles of their children: Mary, a refuge for the spirit, a comfort for the soul, and an even greater love for those close to him.

*When you grow weary of men,
Come down to the solitary sea and beat your breast
On the pure shores of dawn.
Then, revived by noble affection,
Rise, fight and bless again.*

Nicola Emanuele

Page S-27 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.



ONORE A QUEL gruppo di ben noti compagni della corrente sindacale e socialista e specialmente al Direttore della "Parola del Popolo" di Chicago, compagno Clemente, per la nobile iniziativa di voler onorare il beneamato compagno Emilio Grandinetti nella ricorrenza del 50.mo anniversario delle sue attività politiche in America, che, nel quadro delle benemeritenze personali, rappresentano un lungo periodo di vita, di lavoro e di lotte sostenute per il trionfo della Giustizia Sociale.

Se le condizioni della mia salute me lo avessero permesso non sarei mancato di trovarmi presente durante il "Testimonial Dinner" per onorare modestamente con un fraterno abbraccio, l'uomo, il fratello, il compagno di sindacato e di partito il quale giammai e per nessuna ragione, in ogni tempo volle transigere o abiurare dai suoi ideali umani e dalla sua fede socialista. Onorando Grandinetti, si onorano non solamente lui, l'organizzatore, il padre esemplare, il giornalista della penna scorrevole e concisa, il compagno saggio che nelle contese inevitabili, delle debolezze personali, illumina e riscalda col suo ragionamento fraterno, la mente e la coscienza verso reciproci doveri, proprio con la stessa bontà e perseveranza di doti non comuni, che distinguevano due altri compagni, Gioacchino Artoni e Giovanni Sala.

Onorando Grandinetti, si onorano cinquanta e più anni di apostolato e non solamente perchè il nostro compagno durante la lunga permanenza negli Stati Uniti, più di tutto dedicò se stesso sin dal 1910 al difficile compito di organizzare al fianco di altri ben noti e valorosi compagni di fede i lavoratori sarti italiani e di altre nazionalità per riscattarli dallo sfruttamento padronale e dare loro la dignità di cittadini nell'industria. Per questa opera di riscatto e di emancipazione ci volle coraggio, fede e immenso sacrificio umano. Si lottava a rischio della propria vita, quotidianamente; si doveva lottare contro la reazione poliziesca assoldata dai baroni dell'industria, come contro la perfida minaccia della criminalità assoldata per intimidire l'opera organizzativa iniziata e guidata dal giovane Sindacato Operaio, che oggi si conosce come "Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; organizzazione che conta oltre 200,000 operai sarti — uomini e donne — non includendo gli operai camiciai e operai di lavanderia, nei centri industriali di New York, Rochester, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago e altre città d'America e nel Canada.

Al compagno Grandinetti, come a tanti altri ben noti compagni italiani e di altre razze spetta l'onore e la gratitudine dei lavoratori sarti e di altre industrie degli Stati Uniti, se col sacrificio, la fede e la perseveranza dimostrata nel duro lavoro durante cinquant'anni di lotte, in nome della dignità umana, gli operai godono di libertà, migliori condizioni economiche e di protezione per la vecchiaia, in caso di malattie e di Cliniche dove gli affiliati possono recarsi senza spesa alcuna, per visite mediche.

A questo ideale umano il compagno Emilio Grandinetti ha dedicato gran parte della sua esistenza. E non solo i lavoratori e gli amici di Chicago sentono di volerlo onorare, ma siamo certi che la sua persona è cara a tutti quelli che lo conoscono personalmente.

Onorando oggi il compagno Emilio Grandinetti si onora anche la

Fort Velona

HONOR TO THAT group of well-known comrades of the trade-union and socialist movement, and especially to the Director of *La Parola del Popolo* of Chicago, Comrade Clemente, for the noble initiative of wishing to honor the late Comrade Emilio Grandinetti on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his political activity in America, which, in the context of personal hardships and difficulties, represents a long period of a life of work and struggles sustained for the triumph of Social Justice.

If my health had permitted it, I would not have failed to be present during the “Testimonial Dinner” to honor modestly, with a fraternal embrace, the man, the brother, the comrade in the union and in the party, whom I admired and loved for the time that I wanted to transmit and preserve his human ideals and his socialist faith.

In honoring Grandinetti, we honor not only him, the organizer, the exemplary father, the journalist whose pen flows swiftly and concisely, the wise comrade who, in the inevitable disputes and debates of personal obligations, enlightens and rekindles his fraternal reasoning, his mind and his conscience toward reciprocal duties, with that same goodness and perseverance in qualities not common, which distinguished two other comrades, Giachino Artoni and Giovanni Sala.

In honoring Grandinetti, we honor fifty and more years of perseverance and not only the comrade during his long residence in the United States, but above all the man who, since 1910, devoted himself to the difficult task of organizing, alongside other brave and courageous comrades of faith and labor, Italian tailors and those of other nationalities, in order to rescue them from employer exploitation and give them the dignity of citizens in industry.

This work of redemption and human emancipation was courageous, based on faith and immense human sacrifice. He fought at the risk of his own life, daily; he had to struggle against the violence of the police, incited by the industrial barons, as well as against the perfidious threat of the criminal element, which had been called upon to obstruct the organizational work initiated and guided by the young *Sindacato Operaio*, which today is known as the **Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America**; an organization which today counts more than 200,000 clothing workers—men and women—not including the shirt workers and laundry workers of the industrial centers of New York, Rochester, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, and other cities of America and Canada.

To Comrade Grandinetti, as to so many other well-known Italian comrades and those of other races, honor is due for the sacrifices, faith, and perseverance demonstrated in their long years of struggle, in the name of human dignity. Through their efforts, the workers enjoy freedom, better conditions of life, and protection in old age, in cases of illness, and in the clinics where members can receive medical treatment without any expense.

To this human ideal Comrade Emilio Grandinetti dedicated a large part of his existence. And not only the workers and friends of Chicago honor him, but we are certain that his person is dear to all those who know him personally.

In honoring Comrade Emilio Grandinetti today, we also honor...

End of page S-28 translation; this tribute continues on page S-29, but the remaining part of the tribute is translated on the next page in this document.

...his modest family; his native town of Decollatura, in the Province of Catanzaro, the town where he was born, is honored; all his schoolmates are honored, especially the students of the colleges of Reggio and Messina; and all his comrades in the Faith, who remember when, across the ocean, in that distant land, our Grandinetti, with youthful enthusiasm, kindled in their hearts the faith of the socialist ideal.

In honoring Grandinetti, we honor the sweet land of Calabria, which gave birth to men and illustrious comrades such as Tiberio Evolì, Luigi Borrello, Guglielmo Calarco, Pietro Timpano, Pietro Mancini, the Hon. Priolo, Felice Lazzaro, Malgeri, Controresi, Misiferi, and the Mantica brothers. All men of distinction, who shared with Comrade Grandinetti, both in the classrooms and in the squares of the southern cities, all the joys, the hardships, and the disappointments of the political struggles of their youth, when dreams illuminated the beauties of life and the affirmation of the noblest ideal: the triumph of Socialism.

In this warm demonstration of fraternal friendship, may our dear Emilio receive our fraternal wishes for vigorous health and a long life.

New York, 30-3-57

Fort Velona

Pages S-28 & S-29 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

Le "Nozze d'oro" di Grandinetti

IL FIOR FIORE dell'intellettualità laburista dell'East sarà presente il 5 maggio in Chicago per onorare Emilio Grandinetti e ricordare un lontano 5 maggio, quello di mezzo secolo fa, quando un giovane ardimentoso, sognatore, idealista arrivava dalla natia Calabria alla "lontana America," sospinto da innato spirito di avventura. Erano partiti dalla Calabria ed erano arrivati, prima di lui, altri suoi conterranei avventurosi, dei quali egli ne aveva sentito raccontare nelle storie ascoltate con occhi imbambolati, intorno al focolare della casa paterna.

Gli avevano detto, ed egli sten-



sua modesta famiglia, si onora il suo paese — Decollatura — nella Provincia di Catanzaro, il paese che gli diede i natali, si onorano tutti i suoi compagni di scuola e specialmente i goliardi dei Collegi di Reggio e di Messina: tutti i compagni di Fede, che ricordano quando, al di là dell'Oceano, nella terra lontana, egli, il nostro Grandinetti, con entusiasmo giovanile infuocava nei loro petti la fede dell'ideale socialista.

Onorando Grandinetti si onora la dolce terra di Calabria, che diede i natali a uomini e compagni illustri come Tiberio Evoli, Luigi Borrello, Guglielmo Calarco, Pietro Timpano, Pietro Mancini, l'On. Priolo, Felice Lazzaro, Malgeri, Cotronesi, Misfieri, e i fratelli Mantica. Tutti uomini eletti, che condivisero col compagno Grandinetti sia nelle aule scolastiche come nelle piazze delle città meridionali tutte le gioie, le amarezze e le delusioni durante le lotte politiche sostenute nella primavera della vita, quando i sogni irradiano le bellezze della vita, per l'affermazione della più nobile idealità: il trionfo del Socialismo.

In questa calda dimostrazione di fraterna amicizia, vada al nostro caro Emilio, il fraterno augurio di fervida salute e di lunga vita.

New York 30-3-57

Fort Velona

tava a credere, che sospinti dal bisogno, col miraggio di raggiungere un'agognata indipendenza, centinaia di operai e contadini spremevano dalla famiglia e dagli amici le poche centinaia di lire necessarie per pagarsi "il passaggio" e tentavano l'ignota della terra di America. Pochi tornavano, molti davano notizie qualche volta, altri non tornavano mai più! Come mai potevano trovarsi altri a seguirli; perchè la "via senza ritorno" continuava ad attrarli? Aveva sentito racconti di esplosioni minerarie, gli avevano descritto le bolge sotterranee dove si scavavano le ferrovie per le immense metropoli, aveva avuto quasi la visione delle ardenti praterie dove con piccone e pala si aprivano le strade ferrate verso l'Ovest; là erano gli emigrati d'Italia, gli emigrati del "giardino del mondo"; là erano sotto l'inesorabile sole cocente, od agli inverni cupi e gelidi, a tendere i muscoli di un corpo sviluppatosi alla carezza delle brezze mediterranee, alla ombra degli olmi e fagi dell'Appennino Calabro; là erano quegli uomini audaci, a vendere a poco prezzo energie proficue per la loro terra di origine, perchè i baroni della terra di origine "impinguati di ozi e di vivande" continuavano a vivere nella crudeltà delle brume medioevali o forse erano convinti che la miseria, lunga estenuante eterna, era imposta ai lavoratori per volere di Dio.

—Perchè non tornano ricchi — si domandava? Come si può volontariamente dare l'addio ai propri

monti? Chi, che cosa li trattiene? E salpò anche lui ai primi del secolo e visse tra loro e ne condivise le ambascie e la fatica, guardò nel loro cuore e vide la fiamma del bene, guardò intorno e intravede possibilità; abbracciò l'evangelo dell'emancipazione sociale, ne divenne discepolo e sacerdote. Il suo destino era segnato: riscattare dallo sfruttamento capitalista chi lavorava senza riconoscimento e con poca ricompensa; dare una personalità al lavoratore.

Mezzo secolo di lotte politiche ed operaie per Emilio Grandinetti e quanta strada percorsa!

Il 5 maggio (lo scoglio di Quarto, la fine di Napoleone: la civiltà accumola date e commemorazioni) Marimpietri, il suo compagno di Lavoro, Chiostra, Camboni, Clemente (la morte ha tolto al simposio Giuseppe Antonio Borgese) saranno intorno ad Emilio Grandinetti per guardarlo con occhi lucenti e ricordargli, per renderlo certo che il seme sparso nel grande deserto dell'incomprensione venne innaffiato col sangue del sacrificio ed in mezzo secolo ha generato uomini coscienti, forze operaie imbattibili, capaci di dare alla "patria americana" afflato sufficiente verso una vita più sana, più ampia e serena.

Vorremmo esserci anche noi per assistere alle "nozze d'oro" del nostro conterraneo con la democrazia americana: tempo e distanze l'impediscono, ma questo periodico della Costa del Pacifico (l'autore si riferisce al "Corriere del Popolo" del quale è il Direttore) avrà la sua ineguagliabile rappresentanza, perchè G. D. Procopio, amico compagno e fratello del festeggiato, la cui vita si svolge parallelamente a quella di Grandinetti, degnamente dirà della nostra stima e dell'affetto saldato con l'acciaio delle battaglie, arroventato dalla fiamma dei comuni ideali, dirà quanto Grandinetti è caro a tutti coloro che ammirano negli uomini due grandi virtù, una che sta in alto, il compimento, l'altra nel pianoro tranquillo, la modestia.

Carmelo Zito

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Grandinetti's Golden Anniversary

Carmelo Zito

The finest representatives of the labor movement's intellectual life in the East will be present in Chicago on May 5 to honor Emilio Grandinetti and to remember another May 5, half a century ago, when a young, adventurous dreamer and idealist arrived from his native Calabria in “far-off America,” driven by an intense spirit of adventure.

They had told him—and at first he could hardly believe it—that, driven by need and lured by the dream of achieving a longed-for independence, hundreds of workers and peasants would scrape together from family and friends the few hundred lire needed to pay for their passage, and would set out for the unknown land of America. Few returned; many sent word from time to time; others never returned at all! How could there possibly be others willing to follow them? Why did the “road of no return” continue to attract them?

He had heard stories of mining explosions. They had described to him the underground hells where railroads were being dug for the immense cities. He had almost seen in his mind the blazing prairies where pick and shovel opened the railroad lines toward the West. There were the emigrants from Italy, emigrants from the “garden of the world”; there they were, beneath the merciless, burning sun or through the dark and freezing winters, straining muscles developed under the caress of Mediterranean breezes and in the shade of the elms and beeches of the Calabrian Apennines. There were those bold men, selling cheaply the productive strength of their native land, because the barons of that land, “stuffed with idleness and food,” continued to live in the cruelty of medieval darkness—or perhaps were convinced that endless, exhausting misery had been imposed upon the workers by the will of God.

“Why don't they come back rich?” he wondered. “How can anyone voluntarily say farewell to his native mountains? Who—or what—holds them back?”

And he, too, sailed for America at the beginning of the century. He lived among them and shared their hardships and their labor; he looked into their hearts and saw the flame of goodness. He looked around and glimpsed possibilities. He embraced the gospel of social emancipation and became its disciple and priest. His destiny was marked out: to rescue from capitalist exploitation those who labored without recognition and for little reward; to give the worker a sense of dignity and worth.

Half a century of political and labor struggles for Emilio Grandinetti—and what a road he has traveled!

On May 5—the anniversary of Quarto, the end of Napoleon, those accumulated milestones of civilization commemorated by dates and observances—Marimpietri, his fellow worker, Chrostra, Camboni, and Clemente will gather around Emilio. (Death has taken Giuseppe Antonio Borgese from the gathering.) They will look upon him with shining eyes and remind him, to make him certain, that the seed scattered in the great desert of incomprehension was watered with the blood of sacrifice and, in half a century, has produced conscious men and an invincible labor movement, capable of giving the “American homeland” sufficient breath to move toward a healthier, broader, and more serene life.

We too would like to be there to witness the “golden anniversary” of our brother-in-fellowship with American democracy. Time and distance prevent us, but this periodical from the Pacific Coast—the author is referring to the *Corriere del Popolo*, of which he is the editor—will have its incomparable representative there. G. D. Procopio, friend, comrade, and brother of the honoree, whose life unfolded in parallel with Grandinetti's, will fittingly express our esteem and our affection—an affection as solid as the steel of the battles, heated by the flame of our common ideals. He will tell them how dear Grandinetti is to all those who admire in men two great virtues: one that rises high, achievement, and the other that rests quietly on the ground, modesty.

Carmelo Zito

Page S-29 English translation prepared with ChatGPT, 2026.

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Congratulazioni a Emilio Grandinetti per il suo 50.o
anniversario in America avendo date le sue migliori
energie per elevare con la penna e con la parola gli
operai italiani in America.

GIUSEPPE ZEGARELLI
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PARTECIPO in ispirito alle onoranze che si tributano a Emilio Grandinetti in questo giorno d'esultazione memore. Io, che non ho ancora avuto l'onore e la gioia di stringergli la mano, io, come tanti altri a lui congiunti per vincolo d'apostolato, posso dire di conoscerlo, perchè da anni seguo con ammirazione quanto egli va scrivendo ne **La Parola del Popolo**. E', la sua, una nobile voce di fede e di sprone, sempre alta e ad un tempo vicina al cuore dei lettori. Sia che il suo monito si levi a protesta, sia che il suo entusiasmo s'accenda in lode, egli rimane l'uomo fervido ed integro il cui consiglio, frutto di lunghissima esperienza e d'italico orgoglio adamantino, assicura e corrobora la nuova vita della sua e nostra Rivista.

Giuseppe Tusiani



RICORDO CON precisione d'aver incontrato per la prima volta il caro Emilio nel lontano 1924 e precisamente alla Convenzione dell'Amalgamated Clothing Workers' tenutasi nella città di Philadelphia. Da allora in poi la conoscenza si è trasformata non solo in una forte e sincera amicizia ma in una fusione di reciproco rispetto e di fraterna comprensione. E naturalmente anche lontani ho seguito con entusiasmo questa abile figura di uomo, di organizzatore e di forte lottatore a favore della classe operaia. Chi può mai dimenticare la sua grande attività a Chicago prima, dove è sorta la nostra grande Organizzazione, e dare poi la sua esperienza, dopo dure lotte ai sarti della città di Cincinnati. E non sono state queste due città solamente dove il compagno Grandinetti ha profuso le sue attività, ma nel Western Department e non vi è stato centro industriale che non lo abbia visto e non abbia sentito la sua voce. Onestamente bisogna dire che Grandinetti proviene d'agiata famiglia, poteva continuare gli studi e divenire un ottimo professionista e rimanere nella sua, e mia, Calabria e vivere una vita tranquilla e calma. Ma la indole ribelle alle umane ingiustizie, preferì dare la sua attività ai deboli, educare le masse e organizzare gli operai.

Modesto, egli ha saputo cattivarsi il rispetto e le simpatie di tutti. Oggi egli è circondato dall'affetto della sua famiglia ed è ricordato da una schiera molto vasta di amici e di compagni sia in America come in Italia. Nel suo cinquantesimo anno di attività in America auguro sia a lui quanto alla "Parola del Popolo" lunghi anni di vita e di affermazioni. Brooklyn, N. Y., 4-5-57

Frank de Luca

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Giuseppe Tusiani

I join in spirit in the honors being paid to Emilio Grandinetti on this memorable day of celebration. I, who have not yet had the honor and joy of shaking his hand, but who, like many others, am connected to him by a bond of shared ideals and work, can say that I know him because for years I have followed, with admiration, what he has been writing in *La Parola del Popolo*.

His is a noble voice of faith and encouragement, always elevated and at the same time close to the hearts of his readers. Whether his admonition rises in protest or his enthusiasm is kindled in praise, he remains a fervent and upright man whose counsel, the fruit of very long experience and an adamant Italian pride, sustains and strengthens the renewed life of his and our Rivista.

Giuseppe Tusiani

Frank de Luca

I remember precisely meeting dear Emilio for the first time back in 1924, specifically at the convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers held in the city of Philadelphia. From that time onward, our acquaintance developed not only into a strong and sincere friendship, but into a bond of mutual respect and fraternal understanding.

And naturally, even from a distance, I followed with enthusiasm this capable man, organizer, and determined fighter on behalf of the working class. Who could ever forget his great activity, first in Chicago, where our great Organization was born, and afterward his experience, following the hard struggles among the tailors of the city of Cincinnati? And these were not the only two cities where Comrade Grandinetti devoted his efforts. In the Western Department, there was no industrial center that had not seen him and had not heard his voice.

It must honestly be said that Grandinetti came from a well-to-do family. He could have continued his studies, become an excellent professional, remained in his—and my—Calabria, and lived a quiet and peaceful life. But, rebellious by nature against human injustices, he preferred to devote his efforts to the weak, to educate the masses, and to organize the workers.

Modest as he was, he knew how to earn the respect and affection of everyone. Today he is surrounded by the affection of his family and is remembered by a very large circle of friends and comrades both in America and in Italy. On his fiftieth year of activity in America, I wish both him and *La Parola del Popolo* many long years of life and achievement.

Brooklyn, N.Y., May 4, 1957

Frank de Luca

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